

Hafa Adai!

Japanese families have embarked on memorial journey to Saipan, Tinian. **PAGE 2**  
Man accused of hitting officers with car now faces child neglect charges. **PAGE 4**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 113  
**THURSDAY** JUNE 6, 2024  
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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority continues to look for ways to reduce landing fees for airlines bringing in tourists as the steep airport rates have become an issue for most airlines.

## OAG: FAA must review any airport-sponsored incentive program

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has provided the Commonwealth Ports Authority with advice on its recent initiative to provide discounts and incentives to airlines bringing in tourists to  
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## HK Airlines proves pent-up demand to travel in China

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce director Alex Sablan shares that Hong Kong Airlines is proof that there is a pent-up demand to travel in China with Hong Kong's weekly flights bringing in more tourists than United Airlines' thrice-weekly Japan flights.

The Chamber held its monthly general membership meeting yesterday at the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

During the meeting, Chamber board secretary Ron Smith discussed the importance  
**See CHINA on Page 4**

CHRYSTAL MARINO  
Saipan Chamber of Commerce director Ron Smith during the Chamber's general membership meeting yesterday at Kensington Hotel Saipan.



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas chats with Office of Management and Budget special assistant Vicky Villagomez, right, during DPS' budget hearing before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means last Tuesday.

## Macaranas makes emotional appeal for supporting DPS

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

"At night I can't sleep thinking of my officers."

This was the sentiment shared by Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas when he

appeared before the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means for a budget hearing last Tuesday.

Macaranas emotionally pleaded with the members of the House panel to help him provide officers with the  
**See DPS on Page 4**

## Biden rolls out asylum restrictions to help 'gain control' of border

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Tuesday unveiled plans to enact immediate significant restrictions on migrants seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border as the White House tries to neutralize immigration the November elections. The long-anticipated presi-  
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### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

Gold's Gym Saipan, in partnership with Michelob Ultra, PHI Pharmacy, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, and TurnKey Solutions, proudly congratulates the participants of the 2024 Gold's Gym Transformation Challenge.

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#### BUSINESS

Japanese soufflé pancake restaurant 38 Mitsubachi held its long-anticipated grand opening last Thursday with local and business leaders and members of the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands gracing the occasion.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Alec Baldwin and his wife Hilaria are the next family set to star in their own reality series after the actor and producer announced the TLC reality show about their life as a party of nine.

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Several Okinawan Japanese families have already begun making the journey to the CNMI in time for the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Local

## Japanese families have embarked on memorial journey to Saipan, Tinian

By CHRYSTAL MARINO  
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CORRESPONDENT

In tribute to their loved ones who died on the shores of the Saipan and Tinian, several Okinawan Japanese families have already begun making the journey to the CNMI for the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian, battles that claimed the lives of thousands of Okinawans during World War II.

According to a news release from the Okinawa Broadcasting Corp. and NHK World Japan, a group of 37 individuals left Japan last May 30 to make the journey to the CNMI.

Among the sojourners is 93-year-old Haruko Yunaji, who tragically lost seven relatives in the fierce ground battles that ravaged Saipan. Reflecting on the loss Yunaji remarked, "My father, brother, sister... seven in total. If there was no war... I would not be left alone," she shared.

Yunaji's grandson, Yoshiaki Nakamoto, is also taking the journey with his grandmother. For 52-year-old Nakamoto, this pilgrimage carries a profound significance as he hopes to impart the enduring legacy of his family's sacrifice to future generations. "As this may be the last journey, I hope to convey something to my children and grandchildren (by participating)," he had expressed with a sense of solemn resolve.

The memorial journey, which spans five days, will see the bereaved families pay homage to their loved ones at various memorial monuments scattered across Saipan and Tinian. With prayers and offerings, they seek to honor the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, ensuring that their legacy endures through the passage of time.

As the group sets forth on this emotional odyssey, their pilgrimage serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring bonds of family and the profound impact of war on generations past and present. Though decades have passed since the tumult of battle subsided, the memories of those lost in the crucible of conflict remain etched in the hearts of their descendants.

Several officials in the CNMI have shared their remarks for these special guests, one of whom is Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris A. Concepcion.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority warmly welcomes

our friends and family from Okinawa who are here to pay their respects to those lost during the World War II battles of Saipan and Tinian. Okinawa and the Marianas share a unique and treasured connection in history. Tens of thousands of Okinawans were brought to the Marianas during the Japanese administration, many of whom lived, worked, mingled, and intermarried with the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people.

Concepcion said until now, descendants of Okinawans still live in the CNMI.

For 30 years under the Japanese administration, we built familial ties between our peoples. And after the war, we maintained goodwill and friendship and have conducted these ceremonies for decades. The year 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian so it is a special occasion, albeit sad and painful for many, but the MVA remains committed to supporting and promoting our particular bond with the people of Okinawa now and in the future. We are pleased to provide logistical support to the organizers by providing tents, tables, chairs, beverages, and general cleanup of the Okinawa memorial site in Marpi. We hope these pilgrimages are continued by future generations as we continue to pray for peace in our region and the world."

Gordon Marciano, chair of committee organizing the Battle of Saipan and Tinian 80th commemoration, shared that as part of the commemoration, there will be tours called Ride Into History. These are done in collaboration with the American Memorial Park and participants will be able to learn more about the battles that took place on Saipan and participants will be able to go through World War II sites.

The tours will take place on June 6, 8, and 22. On June 15, the official anniversary of the war, a ceremony will be conducted at the Memorial Wall in Susupe, across Marianas High School, complete with an 8am reenactment of the World War II beach invasion and the laying of commemorative wreaths. After the ceremony, a motorcade will proceed to the Court of Honor in the American Memorial Park and a kickoff of Liberation Day festivities will begin that evening.

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# Lions Club, Xtreme Fitness 670 support RB's health and wellness campaign



RACQUEL FLOYD

Saipan Beacon Lions Club and Xtreme Fitness 670 met with Saipan Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho last April 22 at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Susupe.

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**  
raxfloyd@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Beacon Lions Club and Xtreme Fitness 670 met with Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho last April 22, 2024 to formalize their commitment to support the Saipan Mayor's Office's effort to promote health and wellness in the community through Zumba.

The SMO's office parking lot was made available for Zumba classes of Xtreme Fitness 670 by Camacho as the first step in implementing his health and wellness campaign as having sufficient space is necessary for holding Zumba sessions.

"Leaders and a lot of other

volunteers in the Xtreme Fitness 670 club which provides free Zumba and other fitness activities to the public are members of the Saipan Beacon Lions Club. As fellow Lions, our club assists these members in their endeavors to help them provide better services to the community," said Saipan Beacon Lions Club president Yolanda Vilavicencio.

The Xtreme Fitness 670 has been providing Zumba fitness classes on Saipan and Tinian for two years now. The free class offered by licensed instructors Mitch Olita and Angelo Galfo is not only limited to Zumba dancing; they also offer Strong Nation, HIIT workout, Ta-

bata, Toning, Step Workout, and CIRCL Mobility. The Xtreme 670 Coaches License allows them to provide classes for all ages, including Zumba Kids Jr., Zumba



RACQUEL FLOYD

Xtreme Fitness 670 and Saipan Beacon Lions Club pose after a workout session at the Saipan Mayor's Office parking lot in Susupe.

Kids, and Zumba Gold.

Free Zumba sessions are conducted by Xtreme Fitness 670 from Monday to Friday, 6:30pm-7:45pm at the mayor's office parking lot.

The class schedules are as follows:

■ Monday: Zumba Fitness/Tabata & CIRCL Mobility; Tuesday- Zumba Fitness/Toning & CIRCL Mobility;

■ Wednesday: Strong Nation/HIIT Workout; Thursday — Zumba Fitness / Step workout & CIRCL Mobility

■ Friday: Zumba Fitness/ CIRCL Mobility.

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**SUBMISSION DATE: July 09, 2024    TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

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# Man accused of hitting officers with car now faces child neglect charges

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A man who was previously arrested for allegedly hitting a few police officers with his

car in an attempt to elude them has been slapped with new charges, specifically child neglect charges.

Last Monday, Chief Criminal Prosecutor Chester Hinds

filed new information against Sammy Christopher Kapileo, a man who was previously arrested for allegedly hitting a few police officers with his car in an attempt to elude them.

Based on the new information, Kapileo is being charged with four counts of child neglect for allegedly not registering four children for school year 2022-2023 and school

year 2023-2024.

"Kapileo did, through willful or negligent act or omission, failed to provide [four minors] with adequate supervision with the result that the child's physical or mental health and wellbeing were harmed or threatened, to wit: defendant did not register [them] for school years 2022-2023 and school year 2023-2024," said the information.

A penal summons has been issued for Kapileo and he is ordered to appear before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja on June 17.

Kapileo, 49, is facing charges of reckless driving, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, obstructing justice, resisting arrest, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, and vandalism in a separate case.

According to court documents, at around 7:47am last May 16, Department of Public Safety officer Kristen Salas was on duty traveling southbound along Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan near the NMI Museum.

During this time, she said she saw a blue Hyundai Tucson in front of her that allegedly made an unsafe switch of lane toward the inner southbound lane. This prompted the officer to conduct a traffic vio-

lator stop pulling the Hyundai Tucson over near the entrance of the U.S. District Court for the NMI building.

After pulling the Tucson over, Salas approached the vehicle and greeted Kapileo who was operating the vehicle. This was when Salas informed the operator that she was pulling him over for an unsafe switch of lane.

However, Salas said Kapileo yelled at her claiming the stop was uncalled for as no one was hurt therefore the switch wasn't unsafe.

Salas proceeded to ask Kapileo for his driver's license and registration but he allegedly refused. This led Salas to call for a supervisor's assistance but during this time, Kapileo was allegedly getting more aggressive, and he had rolled up his window and drove away before parking at the District Court parking lot.

Soon after, DPS officers Cris Deleon Guerrero and Sgt. Michael Langdon arrived and managed to obtain Kapileo's license.

Later, another officer arrived at the scene and met with Langdon who was talking to Kapileo.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## BIDEN

From page 1

dential proclamation would bar migrants from being granted asylum when U.S. officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed. The Democratic president had contemplated unilateral action for months after the collapse of a bipartisan border security deal in Congress that most Republican lawmakers rejected at the behest of former President Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee.

Biden said he preferred more lasting action via legislation but "Republicans have

left me no choice." Instead, he said he was acting on his own to "gain control of the border" while also insisting that "I believe immigration has always been the lifeblood of America."

Trump "told the Republicans ... that he didn't want to fix the issue, he wanted to use it to attack me," Biden said. "It was a cynical, extremely cynical, political move and a complete disservice to the American people who are looking for us not to weaponize the border but to fix it."

Trump, on the other hand, used his social media account to assail Biden again over immigration, saying the Democrat had "totally surrendered

our Southern Border" and his order was "all for show" ahead of their June 27 presidential debate.

The order will go into effect when the number of border encounters between ports of entry hits 2,500 per day, according to senior administration officials. That means Biden's order should go into effect immediately, because the daily averages are higher now. Average daily arrests for illegal crossings from Mexico were last below 2,500 in January 2021, the month Biden took office. The last time the border encounters dipped to 1,500 a day was in July 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The restrictions would be in effect until two weeks after the daily encounter numbers are at or below 1,500 per day between ports of entry, under a seven-day average. Those figures were first reported by The Associated Press on Monday.

Homeland Security said increased enforcement with Mexico since high-level bilateral meetings in late December has lowered illegal crossings but is "likely to be less effective over time," creating a need for more action. "Smuggling networks are adaptable, responding to changes put in place," the department said in a federal rule published Tuesday.

## CHINA

From page 1

of "Operation 500K," a strategic plan to bring in at least 500,000 visitors needed to keep the CNMI's economy afloat.

"Operation 500K" entails at least four flights a week from three source markets, currently the CNMI has daily flights from Korea, three weekly flights from Japan, and once a week flights from Hong Kong.

During the presentation, concerns were raised if there really is a pent-up demand to travel from China to which Chamber director Alex Sablan said "yes" and Hong Kong Airlines is proof of that.

"There is pent-up demand, we're seeing it through the Hong Kong Airlines flight, [People's Republic of China] tourists are even willing to transit through Korea. Their numbers aren't entirely lost,

we have more Chinese tourists through this weekly flight from Hong Kong Airlines than we do from the three weekly flights by United from Japan."

Sablan also noted that the United States has even seen over 2 million PRC tourists coming in post COVID-19 and that's through B-2 tourist visas.

The CNMI has an advantage over the continental United States as it's the only territory with the CNMI Economic Vitality & Security Travel Authorization Program (EVS-TAP), which essentially makes traveling easier for Chinese tourists to visit.

"If you look at post-COVID data, there was about 1.2 million travelers from China to the U.S., last year there was about 2.2 million, there's a projected 3.3 million coming into the U.S. next year and beyond the United States is looking at around 3.7 million to 4 million. These are B-2 visas, but the CNMI is the only ter-

ritory with the EVS-TAP program as a resource. This was negotiated through 902 talks during the Trump administration and the Biden administration saw it through and are now implementing it," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives Chamber vice president Joshua Wise shared that the CNMI is in crisis mode.

Wise explains that fiscal year 2017 was the last year the CNMI was on track for a healthy and sustainable tourism industry.

"We were recognized by the World Tourism Organization as the third fastest growing tourism destination in the world. We had over 663,000 visitors, and the fourth highest fiscal year arrivals in history. We achieved this with nearly 5,600 flights from three major markets," he said.

Wise adds that as of this year and last, the CNMI is far from 2017 numbers.

"Last year, we reached just

over 215,000 arrivals. We are forecasted about 300,000 arrivals this year. That's absolutely not enough. We need at least 500,000 arrivals to break even. This forecast is a 54% loss compared to arrivals in 2017. Hotel occupancy also follows arrivals. We went from 90.89% in 2017 to 37.63% in 2023. Hotel occupancy of 80% is what hotels need to make a profit but 70% is what we need just breakeven. So, at 37% occupancy, which takes into account only HANMI members, is a massive loss. When we take into account the entire island's room inventory from non-HANMI members like guest houses, AirBnbs, our best occupancy we can achieve is just over 25%. This is an over 71% loss compared to our occupancy in 2017," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## OAG

From page 1

the Marianas, stating airport-sponsored incentives must be reviewed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

During a previous board meeting, it was learned that CPA came up with a plan to help airlines bringing in tourists to the CNMI with the steep airport fees that have become an issue for most airlines.

Part of the plan was to provide an incentive for these airline partners by lowering fees by 50% if these airlines continue to increase the number of tourists coming in.

"The program we've set up is from Oct. 1 to December 2023, we stuck to the old rate [prior to the increase], then from January to March, we'd give a 50% discount on the new rate provided that [the airlines] bring in more customers. Then, for the remainder of the year, airlines are eligible for the discount if they increase the number of customers they fly to the CNMI. If you don't increase, you're not entitled to the program. I feel it's a very fair program for both the airlines and us. Is this permanent? No. But, the economy is changing, and we need to adapt to those changes. The economy won't get better if we don't do anything," said

CPA board chair Joe Ayuyu last month.

Assistant attorney general Gregory Cenac stated in a letter to the board issued last week that CPA can implement an airport-sponsored incentive program in the future, however the FAA should first review it.

"If CPA desires to condition a future fee discount on an increase in arrivals or some other condition, it may potentially do so through an airport-sponsored incentive program. However, please note that airport-sponsored incentives using airport funds must comply with the requirements of federal law and FAA grant assurances, including those for use of airport revenue, non-discrimination, and nonexclusively. While the FAA need not approve an airport-sponsored incentive program, the FAA must review an airport-sponsored incentive program for compliance with an airport sponsor's federal obligations at the request of an airport sponsor or of an air carrier potentially affected by an airport-sponsored incentive program. Therefore, I recommend that any incentive program created be reviewed by the FAA," said Cenac.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## DPS

From page 1

resources needed to remain safe while carrying out their role in keeping the CNMI communities safe.

Initially, DPS submitted a budget request of \$9.2 million to the Office of Management and Budget under the Office of the Governor.

However, the Office of the Governor proposed a budget of \$5.6 million for DPS.

"The department currently needs a lot; from training, to equipment, to personnel, even to body armor that our officers need, there's a lot of needs. Even at night, I can't sleep thinking of my officers. Just over the weekend, a report of

a citizen firing a gun randomly, not knowing if it's toward another person or an officer. I am responsible for the community and these officers. I just want the department to have everything it needs to meet the demands of the community," he said.

Macaranas expressed that his priority is funding training for officers.

"I need my officers to be in sync with today's challenges. There's a lot of things happening and yes funding is an issue. In the old days, they tell us to think about tomorrow and not to worry about today, this is what I'm doing. I'm thinking about our tomorrow. [I'm trying] to be an effective leader because the lives of our officers are under my watch," he said.

Macaranas also sought the Legislature's help in tackling a long-standing issue for the department; traffic fines paid to the court that should be benefitting DPS.

"The other things that hurts me is the fines the courts continue to hold that can benefit the department. I came in in 1986, I left in 2022, nothing has changed in respect to seeing some of those fines that will help the department with some of the costly resources that we need from materials to equipment. Every sweat dropped by our officers on the streets only benefits the courts. I ask you to please help me," he said.

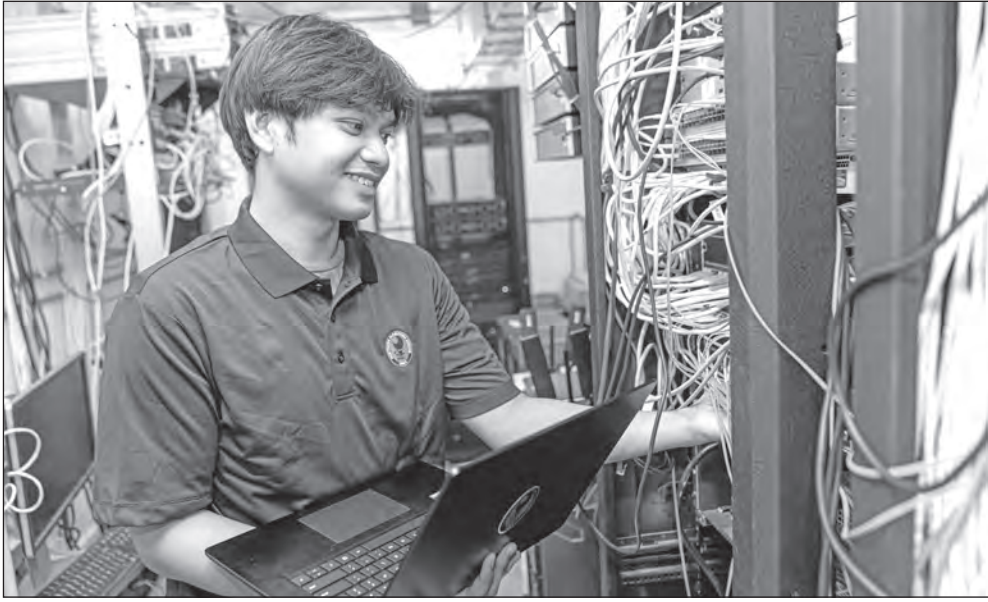
Macaranas also asked for the Legislature's support in making his plans to put up substations in remote villages

(like San Roque and Kagman), become a reality.

"I cannot continue to sit idly by and look at this department that is still falling apart. We try to patch it up piece by piece while working within our means. We've cut down hours from 12 to 8 and with that, the department struggles to meet the demands of the community. I plan to open up substations in San Roque and Kagman just so I can ensure a constant presence of officers, but with the lack of [funds] to hire more officers and equipment needed to open these substations, these prevent these plans from pushing forward. Those are the things I wish I could have now to better serve the community," said Macaranas.



## NMC to help strengthen NMI workforce needs through CompTIA IT certification program



NMC

Northern Marianas College recently signed on as an Authorized Delivery Partner with the Computing Technology Industry Association, or CompTIA, a world-renowned nonprofit trade association that issues professional certifications for the information technology industry. In the photo is NMC IT Support specialist Milbert Barcelo, who through the college received his CompTIA certifications in A+, Network+, Security+, IT Operations, and Secure Infrastructure.

As part of the college's continuing efforts to bolster the local workforce, Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute recently signed as an Authorized Delivery Partner with the Computing Technology Industry Association, or CompTIA, a world-renowned nonprofit trade association that issues professional certifications for the information technology industry.

Under the new partnership, NMC-CDI and its instructors will be equipped with valuable tools and resources to assist in training and certifying information technology professionals in popular CompTIA certifications such as ITF+, A+, Network+, and Security+. NMC is the first in the Pacific region to be an authorized delivery partner of CompTIA.

"This is an exciting development for the college and people of the Commonwealth who are looking to strengthen their skills and expertise in the ever-growing world of information technology," NMC-CDI director Monique Boyer Sablan said. "Individuals who complete the program will also be able to access more competitive job markets, receive higher salaries, and will be able to help contribute to the local IT needs."

Moreover, the CompTIA partnership will set the standard for all who are interested in an IT career, including high school students and other community members. By providing a structured pathway to globally recognized certifications, NMC-CDI will empower aspiring IT professionals from the ground up, ensuring they have the foundational skills and advanced knowledge needed to thrive in the industry. This initiative is poised to inspire the next gen-


eration of IT experts, fostering a robust talent pipeline that will support the technological advancement and economic growth of the region.

Additionally, this partnership will provide clear career pathways into critical areas such as Infrastructure and CyberSecurity. With certifications like Network+, Security+, and advanced programs like Linux+ and Cloud+, participants will gain the expertise required to protect and maintain vital IT systems and infrastructures. This will not only address the growing demand for skilled professionals in these fields, but also enhance the resilience and security of the region's digital landscape.


NMC-CDI will begin rolling out the new training

program through a series of phases, which include a TestOut Digital Literacy Pro certification for individuals who have little to no experience in information technology, an IT fundamentals training program for students considering a career in IT or professionals looking to expand their knowledge, a core skills certification program for individuals looking to get into specialized IT positions, and an IT pathways program, which allows experienced IT professionals to get certified in advanced CompTIA programs, such as Linux+, Server+, and Cloud+.

For more information, interested community members are asked to contact NMC-CDI through email at [cdi@mari-anas.edu](mailto:cdi@mari-anas.edu). (PR)



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**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**  
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Friday, June 07, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:  
**AGENDA**  
**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**  
1. Call to Order  
2. Roll Call  
3. Adoption of Agenda  
4. Adoption of Minutes  
**II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**  
**III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM(S):**  
1. Rota Terminal & Transfer  
2. Bank of Guam Bond  
3. Airline Incentive Program  
4. Employee Compensation/Retention  
5. Public Displays at CPA Facilities  
**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**VI. ADJOURNMENT**  
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed.  
Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom.  
Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227  
JOSE C. AYUYU Chairman, Board of Directors



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-24-022

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

**One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-24-022, Workers' Compensation Insurance & Administration"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Francisco Matsunaga, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email [francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org](mailto:francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org) and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

## Job Vacancy Announcement

### Bookkeeper/Office Assistant (Full-time)

Location: ANAKS, Puerto Rico, Saipan

#### Responsibilities

- Organize and maintain accurate, up-to-date financial records for non-profit homeowner's association; manage invoicing, collections, accounts payable/receivable, and payroll in efficient and timely manner
- Reconcile bank statements, prepare and analyze accounting records and financial statements for accuracy, completeness and conformity to U.S. GAAP standards
- Compute and prepare taxes owed and ensure compliance with federal and state tax regulations, business license, annual corporate reports, etc.
- Respond to telephone and in-person inquiries, and email correspondence as directed
- Foster effective communication and cooperation among staff, owners, tenants, vendors, suppliers and government entities
- Other duties as assigned

#### Minimum Qualifications

- Associate degree in bookkeeping, accounting, business, finance, or related field
- Minimum four (4) years professional bookkeeping/accounting experience
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), and QuickBooks
- Strong communication, organizational, and problem-solving skills
- U.S. citizen/Permanent resident
- Multilingual a plus (Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Tagalog)

#### Compensation

- \$12.00 per hour
- Paid medical insurance
- Paid sick leave, annual vacation leave, holiday pay

#### Application Process

Interested candidates should submit their resume, cover letter, recent police clearance, and professional references via email to: [office1@anaks.net](mailto:office1@anaks.net) by June 22, 2024. Please include "Bookkeeper/Office Assistant Application" in the subject line.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CHINA'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 113

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## GOP road gets bumpy with Trump convictions

**A**mid the cheers and jeers over Donald Trump's legal fate is a practical reality: The former president's conviction will be an albatross for Republicans.

On Thursday, a New York jury found Trump guilty of 34 felonies in a lurid case involving allegations that he falsified business records to cover up a payment to a porn star intended to keep her quiet about a sexual liaison. It is the first time in the nation's history that a former president has been convicted of a criminal offense. (Exhale, Bill Clinton.) The jurors sat through the testimony, pondered the evidence and rendered their judgment. That's how the system works.

Trump supporters should save their wrath for the prosecutor who brought this creative case in the first place. Gloating Trump haters should ask themselves whether New York City would have spent time and treasure pursuing these 9-year-old charges against any other human being on the planet. Or whether prosecutors would have moved forward against Trump was he not running for the Oval Office. The answers are obvious.

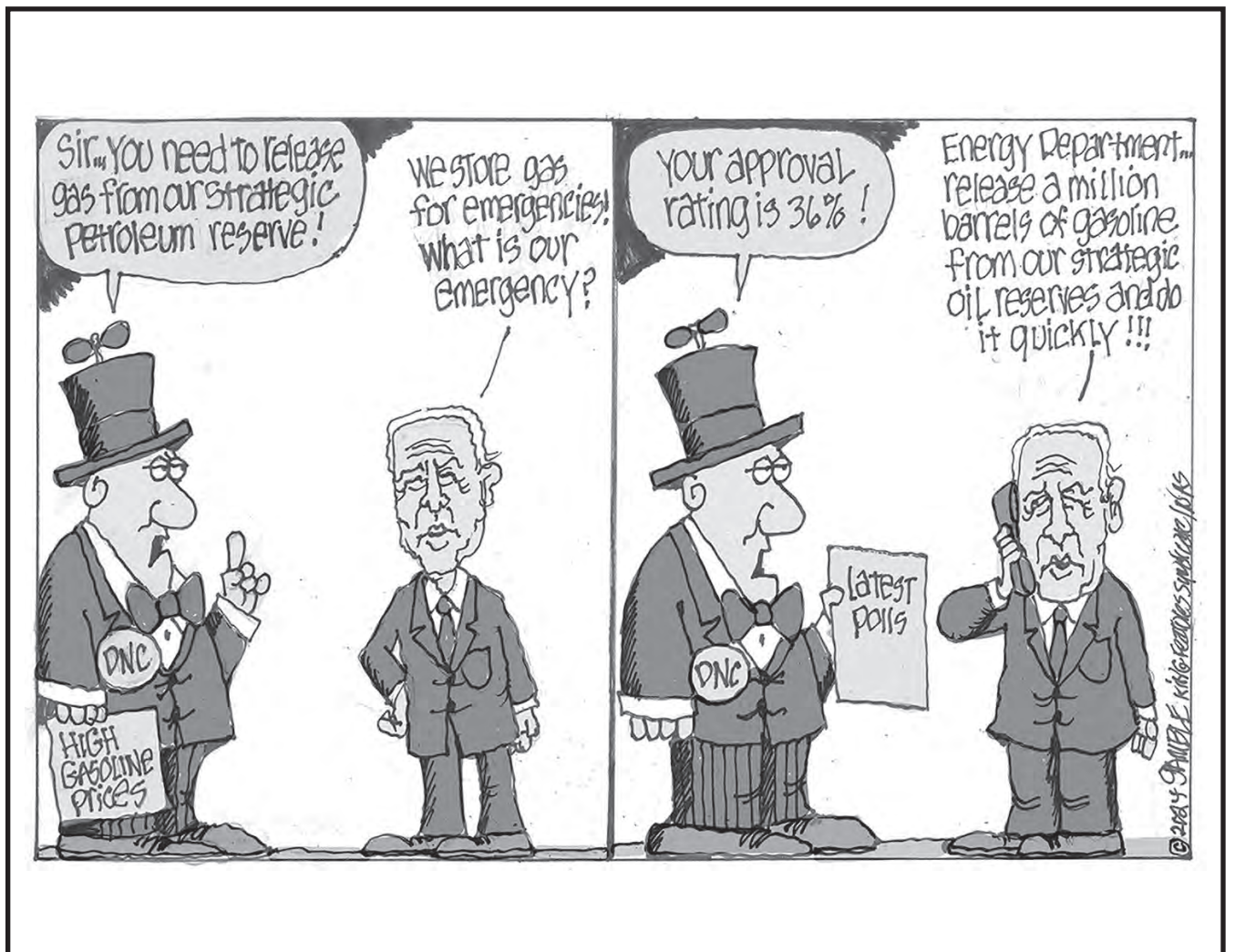
What's next is anybody's guess. Trump will appeal — and likely has a reasonable chance of prevailing, given the way this prosecution was constructed and the case unfolded. Falsifying business records is a misdemeanor in New York, but District Attorney Alvin Bragg argued that the offenses occurred as part of a conspiracy to influence the 2016 presidential election. Voila! The misdemeanors became felonies even though Mr. Trump was never charged with any election-related offenses. If that makes sense, congratulations, you're a law school graduate.

The felony charges carry no mandatory sentence. Will the audacious Bragg push his luck and demand prison time? Would the judge agree to jail a 77-year-old, first-time offender with no criminal record? How far are they willing to go for a victimless offense beefed up by an election statute that, observers say, has never before been enforced? Sentencing is set for July 11, four days before the Republican National Convention.

Trump has so far retained his support despite the barrage of legal boulders that Democratic prosecutors have rolled his way. His loyal base remains strong. But the former president—along with Republican Senate and congressional candidates—would surely rather be campaigning without having to address the political realities of last week's verdict. In a close election involving a handful of swing states, Trump can't afford to lose any potential support. Previous surveys have shown that a small number of independent or undecided voters might be less likely to back the GOP standard-bearer if he were found guilty of any crimes.

Even if Trump were to have his convictions overturned on appeal, that might come too late to mitigate the potential damage, which may reach down the ballot once Democrats begin pounding the airwaves with freshly minted attack ads. Expect to hear the word "felon" ad nauseam between now and November. Every Republican candidate—from school board to Congress—had best prep for a constant

See GOP on Page 7



## Republican reaction to Trump verdict bodes ill for the election

**C**ommitted MAGA activists leave little doubt about their feelings regarding former president Donald Trump's conviction on 34 felony counts last week. As reported by Newsweek, political commentator and YouTuber Joey Mannarino, for example, was emphatic: "As of today, with this fake guilty verdict against Trump, America is no longer the United States. We are a third-world s---hole heading for a Civil War."

I've never heard of Joey Mannarino. I have, however, heard of Mike Johnson, J. D. Vance, Mitch McConnell, Elise Stefanik, Matt Gaetz, Tim Scott, Steve Scalise, Jim Jordan and many other Republicans who responded to last week's guilty verdict in a predictable fashion.

Jordan called the verdict "a travesty of justice." McConnell said, "These charges should never have been brought in the first place." Vance said the verdict was "an absolute miscarriage of justice."

Most concerning is Mike Johnson, the speaker of the House, who, to some extent, owes his office to Trump. Johnson called the charges "purely political," and he called last Thursday "a shameful day in American history."

Johnson urged the Supreme Court to intervene, in place of, apparently, the ordinary appeals process available to every convicted defendant. He added, mysteriously and somewhat ominously, "I know many of them personally."

None of these Republicans seems to have given much consideration to the notion that Trump may actually be guilty of the crimes. They casually discredit our entire justice system by asserting, without proof or even evidence, that the Biden administration and the Department of Justice (which, incidentally, happens to be putting President Joe Biden's son on trial this week) is mounting a purely political attack against Trump.

They ignore relevant questions: If you think your political opponents are out to get you, why give them so much to work with? Did you really need to stockpile and refuse to surrender classified documents at Mar-a-Lago? Was it advisable to pressure Georgia election officials to "find" precisely the number of votes needed for you to win an election? Was it prudent to encourage an agitated mob to march to the Capitol and "fight like hell" for your reelection?

At some point, the American justice system—as slow as it's been—has to respond. That's what happened last Thursday.

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at [jcrispcolumns@gmail.com](mailto:jcrispcolumns@gmail.com).



But the hush-money trial is mostly a sideshow. Trump is unlikely to go to prison, and there's a good chance that his appeals will delay final judgment until after the election.

Here's the real problem: The Republican reaction to the verdict last week bodes ill for the election just five months away. If Trump loses the election, by a little or by a landslide, under no circumstances will he accept the result. Nor will most Republicans.

YouTubers such as Joey Mannarino can bluster all they like about civil war and the end of the United States; they should not be casually discounted. But the Republicans in the list above have real power. Mike Johnson is not only the speaker, he's second in line to the presidency. Scalise is the House majority leader. Stefanik is chair of the House Republican Conference.

All of these Republicans have already joined Trump in denying the legitimacy of the 2020 election; had they not, they wouldn't be in power. The efforts of Johnson and Jordan to overturn the election are well-documented. Even the independence of two Supreme Court justices is compromised under cover of their wives, one of whom—Ginni Thomas—actively tried to overturn the election.

If Trump loses, he will not quietly accept the will of the people, as expressed in a traditional democratic election. The Republican response to last week's verdict is further proof that, this time, he will be supported by a loyal and powerful faction with few scruples about restoring him to office. And he will do nothing to dissuade the hundreds of thousands—perhaps millions—of well-armed devotees, many of whom, like Mannarino, are avid for a civil war.

We are not taking this seriously enough. Are committed constitutional Americans willing to do what is required to keep our republic, even if it includes violence?



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Putin's shadow war against Europe is intensifying

**R**ussian nationals have been arrested in Germany on charges of planning to attack military facilities. English prosecutors claim that Russian agents set fire to a warehouse containing aid for Ukraine. Sweden is investigating alleged Russian-sponsored acts of sabotage. The Czech government accuses Moscow of sabotaging its railways, as well.

Estonia, meanwhile, has reportedly uncovered a host of Russian plots on its soil. Russian ships are suspected of targeting communications cables and wind farms in the North Sea. Now, Moscow may be involved in suspicious fires—including one that engulfed a shopping center — in Poland. The roster of allegations goes on and on.

Russia naturally denies any culpability, but where there is this much smoke—literal or figurative—there is probably some fire. As Prime Minister Kaja Kallas of Estonia has said, Russia seems to be waging a “shadow war” against Europe—a campaign meant to weaken Western support for Ukraine, or at least to punish European countries for providing it. In doing so, President Vladimir Putin is also giving a preview of the hyper-resentful, asymmetrically aggressive Russia that will emerge from the current war.

No matter what losses Moscow suffers in Ukraine, no matter where the front lines are when the fighting ends, Russia will still occupy one-eighth of the land on earth, and it will still be one of the most important geopolitical actors. Its behavior will shape the security environment in Europe and far beyond.

Many European governments fear Putin is already envisioning new wars: Denmark's defense minister announced that Russia could attack one of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's European members within three to five years.

Don't dismiss this scenario entirely. Putin is militarizing Russian society and raising defense production to record levels. If he doubted America's commitment to Europe—perhaps because it had once again elected a president who continually derides NATO—he might be tempted to conduct a smash-and-grab at-

tack, perhaps against the Baltic States, to show just how hollow the alliance had become. Short of that, however, a conventional Russian assault on Europe seems unlikely.

Putin has had to mobilize so much manpower and materiel because his army has suffered such brutal attrition in Ukraine. Even after this war ends, Russian forces will have to occupy whatever Ukrainian territory they still control. Moreover, so long as the US remains committed to NATO, Putin knows that an attack on its members risks starting a war he would ultimately lose. More likely, then, is a thoroughly roguish, occasionally violent Russia—but one that relies mainly on asymmetric tactics to weaken an alliance he cannot beat head-on.

Putin certainly has the motive. He contends that the West is already waging a “real war,” meant to humiliate Russia and destroy his regime. He has used the current war to radicalize his country—to purge it of liberal, moderate elements, to indoctrinate teenagers and even young children in extreme nationalism, to create a system geared toward confrontation with the outside world. He has accumulated vast reserves of animosity toward the countries that are helping Ukraine kill Russian troops. And he has many unconventional means of seeking revenge.

Russia has long sponsored covert acts of destruction in Europe: As far back as 2014, Russian agents apparently sabotaged Czech ammunition dumps containing arms bound for Ukraine. His regime has cultivated criminals and radicals as proxies; it has weaponized migration by pushing refugees across the borders into Europe. It has used nominally civilian capabilities, such as fishing trawlers, to attack valuable undersea infrastructure.

For years, Moscow has also sponsored attempted coups and assassination plots in countries from Montenegro to Germany. At times, it has simply moved, or threatened to move, its land and sea borders with neighboring states. Add in Russia's well-honed political warfare capabilities—influence operations, cyberattacks and other means of meddling—and Putin has everything he needs for a low-intensity assault against the West.

By **HAL BRANDS**

Bloomberg Opinion

*Hal Brands is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and the Henry Kissinger Distinguished Professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.*



To be clear: This isn't just some harassment campaign, some fit of geopolitical pique. These tactics erode Western countries' sovereignty and unsettle their politics.

Most fundamentally, they demonstrate that NATO's defense guarantees can't necessarily stop Russia from perpetrating occasionally violent, if quasi-disguised, acts of aggression in Europe. And here, high-end capabilities bolster below-the-threshold tactics: Russia's nuclear arsenal, which Putin habitually brandishes, helps deter a more muscular Western response.

Two years ago, I wrote that Russia might become a “Tehran on the Volga”—a weakened but increasingly militant regime that uses proxies and other non-traditional tools. If anything, this sort of Russia is now taking shape even more rapidly than I expected.

NATO will have to continue rearming against an avowedly revisionist, highly mobilized Russia, if only to ensure that full-blown confrontation with the alliance remains a very bad bet. Yet it must also prepare for a long struggle in the shadows, in which a wounded Russia finds creative ways of harrying its foes. That sort of cold war will be challenging enough—even if the West can keep its confrontation with Putin from turning hot.

Brands is also a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, the co-author of *Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict with China* and a member of the State Department's Foreign Affairs Policy Board. He is a senior adviser to Macro Advisory Partners.

## Even the NRA deserves First Amendment rights

**T**hursday's unanimous decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *National Rifle Association v. Vullo* represents a needed breath of fresh air in a First Amendment atmosphere that has lately been heavy with suffocating arguments for punishing speech. Moreover, the fascinating concurrence by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson offer hints about the big social media cases everyone is awaiting.

First, as to Vullo itself. The tale is quickly told. The NRA sued Maria Vullo—then the head of New York's Department of Financial Services—for allegedly violating the organization's First Amendment rights. In particular, the group claimed that Vullo had used her power to pressure financial firms not to administer or underwrite insurance policies the NRA offered to its members. According to the complaint, Vullo took this action because she disagreed with the NRA's politics.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit dismissed the action, finding no constitutional violation. On Thursday, the Supreme Court reversed the lower court. If the allegations of the complaint are true, wrote Justice Sotomayor for a unanimous court, the regulatory pressure violated the First Amendment. The case was sent back for trial.

Fundamental to the court's logic are two propositions: First,

government officials cannot discriminate against an entity based on that entity's views. Second, what those officials cannot do directly they also cannot do indirectly, by pressuring third parties to punish that entity.

Did the defendant commit that second sin? Lower courts will have to decide that now. But Justice Sotomayor's opinion abounds with quotations from Vullo herself: “Lloyd's ‘could avoid liability for [unrelated] infractions’ if it ‘aided DFS's campaign against gun groups’ by terminating its business relationships with them.” And “Vullo allegedly said she would be ‘less interested in pursuing the[se] infractions ... so long as Lloyd's ceased providing insurance to gun groups, especially the NRA.’” The list goes on and on. The court's unanimous conclusion: “One can reasonably infer from the complaint that Vullo coerced DFS-regulated entities to cut their ties with the NRA in order to stifle the NRA's gun-promotion advocacy and advance her views on gun control.”

To be clear, the justices didn't rule that civil servants can't hold or express views on public issues. Rather, those civil servants can't use their official powers to punish people or groups with different views. Nor can civil servants pressure third parties to punish those with whom they disagree.

Here's another way to understand Justice Sotomayor's point. According to the complaint, then-Governor Andrew Cuomo took a victory lap after Lloyd's caved, telling the press: “The NRA is an extremist organization. I urge companies in New York State to revisit any ties they have to the NRA and consider their reputations, and responsibility to the public.” Just take out “NRA” and put in “Black Lives Matter” or “Planned Parenthood” and the viewpoint discrimination becomes obvious.

The case should never have arisen. It's hornbook First Amendment law that the government can't coerce third parties to act against those whose views officials don't like. That so many political figures seem unable to comprehend this is ... troubling. The rule isn't exactly new. The leading precedent on the subject, *Bantam Books v. Sullivan*, dates from 1963.

All of which leads us to Justice Jackson's concurrence—the

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**

Bloomberg Opinion

*Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of law at Yale University and author of “Invisible: The Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster.”*



opinion that contains what might be hints about the pending social media decisions. Those cases concern allegations that the government pressured social media companies to reduce the reach of conservative voices.

Jackson draws an important distinction between two kinds of government coercion involving third parties. Vullo represents the first kind. Of the second, she writes: “Coercing an entity in the business of disseminating speech to stop disseminating someone else's speech obviously implicates the First Amendment.” It's easy to see how that could apply to the social media cases—leaving government officials little in the way of defense.

Possibly Jackson is going out of her way to make this point to signal her position in those cases. Or maybe I'm trying too hard to read the tea leaves; sometimes they signify nothing. We'll find out soon enough.

Either way, I'm heartened not only by the outcome in Vullo, but by the Supreme Court's unanimity. The NRA, whether one agrees with its positions or not, is entitled to try to prove that New York sought to punish it for its politics. “At the heart of the First Amendment's Free Speech Clause,” Sotomayor writes, “is the recognition that viewpoint discrimination is uniquely harmful to a free and democratic society.”

That's a sentiment we should all be cheering. Government officials are always free to criticize; what they can't do is use their powers to launch frontal attacks on fundamental principles of democracy.

**GOP**

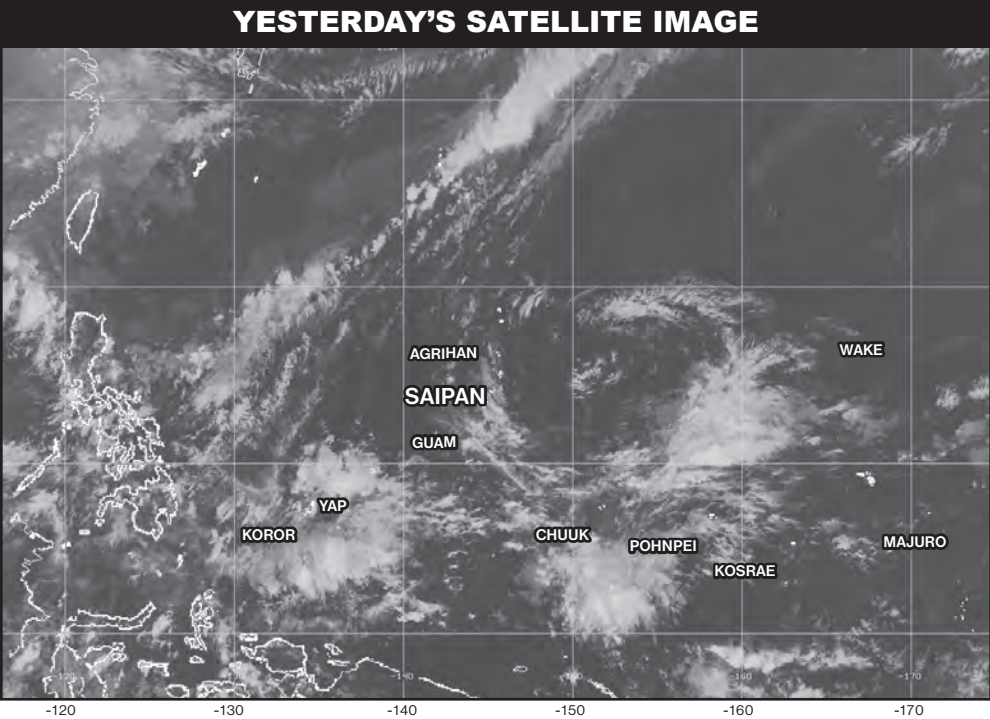
From page 6

stream of “gotcha” inquiries.

The convictions will make an already vicious and contentious election even more so, further riling activists and creating deeper fissures. Talk on the right of exacting “revenge” is unhelpful and dangerous. Ultimately, it will be up to the American people to decide in November whether the legal offensive against Trump represents the legitimate pursuit of justice or an unprecedented partisan crusade to cripple an opposition candidate.

# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 6:56 AM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters. Cloud tops have been cooling so isolated thunderstorms are possible. Combined seas of 3 to 5 feet are composed mainly of trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:03 AM	6:35 PM	-
Friday	5:59 AM	7:37 PM	-
Saturday	6:57 AM	8:35 PM	-
Sunday	7:57 AM	9:28 PM	-
Monday	8:54 AM	10:15 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	61° / 55°	
Beijing	Fair	91° / 71°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 73°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71° / 59°	
Manila	Cloudy	93° / 82°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 45°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 78°	
New York	Clear	77° / 65°	
Osaka	Fair	80° / 63°	
Paris	Showers	72° / 55°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 58°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 59°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 66°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 55°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 59°	
Tokyo	Sunny	79° / 63°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloud	88° / 69°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:11 AM	Low Tide	1.43	
6:08 AM	High Tide	2.17	
1:42 PM	Low Tide	-0.35	
8:58 PM	High Tide	2.10	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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## 2024 GOLD'S GYM SAIPAN CHALLENGE

## Ada, Deleon Guerrero named overall winners



RUSSELLE VICENTE

Gold's Gym Saipan general manager Tyce Mister, left, and assistant manager Michelle Masga, right, congratulate 2024 Gold's Gym Transformation Challenge overall female winner Leilani Deleon Guerrero.

Gold's Gym Saipan, in partnership with Michelob Ultra, PHI Pharmacy, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, and Turn Key Solutions, proudly congratulates the participants of the 2024 Gold's Gym Transformation Challenge. The awards banquet held on Saturday, June 1st, celebrated the achievements of all challengers, distributing over \$6,700 in cash and prizes.

"This year we hit a new record of Challenge participants," shared Gold's Gym general manager Tyce Mister. "Seventy-two challengers began the 12-week transformation journey, and 50 completed the challenge. While the competition focuses on transformation, 95% aimed to lose weight. Collectively, these participants lost over 687 lbs, averaging 13.7 lbs per person, and nearly 4 inches off their waistlines. Simply amazing!"

Assistant manager and per-



RUSSELLE VICENTE

Women's 50-59 first place winner Desolie Calayo celebrates feeling strong heading into her 60s.

sonal trainer Michelle Masga emphasized, "This is a transformation challenge, not just a weight loss competition. We prioritize safety and encourage fat loss where necessary for better health, but we also aim to maintain or increase lean body mass."

Special thanks to Masga, Ella Dela Cruz, and Ksenia Galadzhii for their role in

documenting participants' progress.

Jim Ada, the overall male winner, shared his mantra: "Choices are hard, but giving up is never an option." Ada also secured first place for the most gym visits during the competition, losing a total of 36 lbs, including an estimated 40 lbs of body fat while gaining 4.1 lbs of muscle. Mister remarked, "You know you have a winner when judges ask if the before and after photos are of the same person."

Leilani Deleon Guerrero, the overall female winner, expressed her motivation: "I took the Gold's Gym challenge to improve my health physically, mentally, and emotionally. The gym is a safe space for me, surrounded by amazing, determined people." She acknowledged the initial intimidation of joining the gym but advised newcomers to "continue showing up and trust the process." She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Gold's Gym Saipan family, hoping to inspire others to join the health movement.

Kiana Sablan, best essay and first place winner in the women's 18-29 category,

shared her transformative experience: "On the day that I signed up, I was sitting in the lobby staring at the flyers on the table. Brad Ruzsala walked in and asked what I was doing, and I told him that I was contemplating joining. When I told him why, he said something to me that has stuck with me until today. He told me, 'You have already won by joining and doing this for you.' Within minutes, I asked for the application, paid my dues, and I was officially signed up for the Gold's Gym Challenge."

Challenger Dianne Mallari, unable to attend the banquet, shared her thoughts: "The awards ceremony is the best part of the Challenge! Thank



Gold's Gym Saipan staff led by general manager Tyce Mister.

you for giving the Gold's Gym community an opportunity to take part in this annual event that brings family and friends together in healthy competition and the start or reset of a healthier lifestyle."

## WINNERS

## Women's 18-29

Kiana Sablan (4 completed)

## Men's 18-29

Casey Huliganga  
Bryan Camacho  
Joelourd Cepeda (12 completed)

## Women's 30-39

Salve Bahillo  
Catlyn Ortiz (7 completed)

## Men's 30-39

Jeffrey Bahillo  
Patrick Tudela  
Liming Xu (12 completed)

## Women's 40-49

Chutima Borja (5 completed)

## Men's 40-49

John Jimeno  
Rommel Mostales (7 completed)

## Women's 50-59

Desolee Calayo (2 completed)

## Men's 50-59

Renatto Barros (1 completed)

Ready to take your fitness to the next level or not seeing the results you desire? Gold's Gym Saipan offers NASM Certified Personal Trainers who are experts in fitness and nutrition. Learn more about dotFIT products for health, weight loss, and performance. Serving the community since 1997, Gold's Gym Saipan is a full-fitness facility offering a variety of cardio equipment, racks, group exercise classes, free weights, kettlebells, suspension training, and more. For more information, call (670) 233-4000.

"Congratulations again to all the 2024 Gold's Gym Saipan Challengers! A special thank you to Michelob Ultra, PHI Pharmacy, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, and Turn Key Solutions for their valuable contributions and continued support," said Mister. (PR)

## WANTED: CORRESPONDENTS

Hafa Adail!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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RUSSELLE VICENTE

Overall male winner Jim Ada was also the winner of the most visits during the Challenge.



RUSSELLE VICENTE

Salve Bahillo, women's 30-39 winner and runner-up to the essay contest is cheered on by family, friends, and fellow Challengers.



# Business

## 38 Mitsubachi launches new menu in grand opening

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
EDITOR

Japanese soufflé pancake restaurant 38 Mitsubachi held its long-anticipated grand opening last Thursday with local and business leaders and members of the Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands gracing the occasion.

Guests enjoyed a veritable feast that included 38 Mitsubachi's new pasta menu that includes cold tomato spaghetti with fresh vegetables and carbonara as well as various sushi, titiyas, and barbecue chicken and barbecue ribs.

To top it all off, 38 Mitsubachi also offered their freshly made soufflé pancakes and their newest creation—strawberry shaved ice, which are literally shaved frozen strawberries.

Mayor Ramon B. "RB" Camacho thanked 38 Mitsubachi for inviting him to the grand opening.

"I heard it's owned by a Japanese businessman. That's why I'm here as I want to support this thing. The economy



MARK RABAGO

AMEC, LLC CEO Takatoshi Asada, which owns 38 Mitsubachi, poses with staff during their grand opening last Thursday.

is not that good, yet they opened a new business. I want to send a strong message to our businessmen—'let's work together and support each other because we're all facing this economic hardship,'" he said.

TanHoldings president and CEO Jerry Tan said 38 Mitsubachi is doing everyone in the CNMI a favor by opening a new business despite the tough economic times.

"This is a great plus for our community in these difficult economic times. [I want to thank] 38 Mitsubachi for tak-

ing the risk and opening such a beautiful restaurant. I wish them all the success and especially since we all want more Japanese tourists to come back. We also don't want to lose our existing Japanese investors. We want to welcome more Japanese investors so this opening really comes at a very, very good time. There's an encouraging message coming out from this opening," he said, while commending the food, "I just finished the food and it's absolutely delicious."

Like Camacho and Tan,



MARK RABAGO

38 Mitsubachi is located at the back of Lollipop's along Bougainvillea Avenue in Garapan.

Pacifica Underwriters Insurance Inc. president and CEO Shirley Sablan also gave kudos to 38 Mitsubachi for investing in the CNMI.

"It's exciting to see new business open up these days. It gives us hope that better days are ahead. I extend my congratulations to the owners and staff of 38 Mitsubachi! Their pancakes were scrumptious and strawberry shave ice is a must try. Two thumbs up!" she said.

Yuko Togawa, who is a member of the aforemen-

tioned Japanese Society of the Northern Mariana Islands, said at last 38 Mitsubachi has brought soufflé pancakes to the island.

"I'm so happy that I can now eat fluffy Japanese pancakes on Saipan. I want everyone to experience that fluffy texture. Also, 38 Mitsubachi uses a variety of sauces and honey, which is a natural product from Japan," she said.

Togawa added that those dining at 38 Mitsubachi shouldn't miss the shaved strawberries. "Shaved ice with fresh crushed strawberries and Japanese condensed milk for an authentic taste are the best," she said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) also attended the grand opening with his wife Andrea. While the couple skipped the buffet, they did indulge on the soufflé pancakes

and shaved strawberries.

AMEC, LLC CEO Takatoshi Asada, which owns 38 Mitsubachi, said he always had an eye on investing in the CNMI.

He first came to the islands as a tourist 20 years ago and his trip left such an impression that he thought of investing someday in the CNMI.

Asada said he sees the potential of the CNMI as Micronesia's version of Hawaii or Okinawa—a tropical tourist destination for Japanese tourists.

Ever since a couple of years ago he was already planning to invest on Saipan to revitalize Japanese investments because the connection between the two islands is very strong due to Saipan—together with Tinian and Rota—being former territories of Japan.

His master plan is to dip his toes first in the CNMI then use his success as an example so he can encourage other Japanese companies to invest.

Aside from 38 Mitsubachi and other food businesses, Asada also has businesses in the medical field in Japan.

38 Mitsubachi, located along Bougainvillea Avenue in Garapan, is open from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-6pm, with last order at 5:15pm. It can accommodate 95 dine-in customers that includes indoor and terrace seating. For more information or for reservations, call (670) 233-3281.

## Community First appoints Velasquez as SVP, CFO

Community First Guam Federal Credit Union announced the newest member of the senior management team, Steven Velasquez. Velasquez has been appointed as senior vice president and chief financial officer of Community First.

Velasquez joined Community First from Los Angeles in April 2024 as a temporary consultant for the Accounting Department. Velasquez brings over 20 years of accounting, consultation, and auditing experience in the credit union industry.

"I'm incredibly humbled by this announcement; touched and honored to be your next SVP-CFO at Community First Guam FCU, which comes with huge responsibilities, but I don't shy away from the challenge," said Velasquez.

"None of this would be possible without the support of a

dynamic CEO, Mr. [Gerard] Cruz, the entire management team, board of directors, supervisory committee, and the entire staff that I'm fortunate to be surrounded by. In closing, thank you all for believing in me and I will not disappoint. So much promise and resolve will come our way through hard work, dedication, and passion, together as one!" Velasquez added.

Gerard Cruz, president and CEO of Community First, added, "In addition to his extensive knowledge of accounting and accounting principles, Steven has strong philosophies centered around collaboration, communication, and cooperation throughout an organization, with the goal of optimizing efficiencies to strengthen service for members. Community First is excited to welcome him to the team." (PR)



Velasquez

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



# Life & Style

## Alec and Hilaria Baldwin announce TLC family reality series

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Alec Baldwin and his wife Hilaria are the next family set to star in their own reality series.

The actor and producer, who has seven kids under age 10 with his wife, announced the

TLC reality show about their life as a party of nine. “The Baldwins,” the show’s working title, is set to release in 2025.

“We’re inviting you into our home to experience the ups and downs, the good, the bad,

the wild and the crazy,” Baldwin said in a video he shared to Instagram on Tuesday.

In the announcement video, the couple joked about Hilaria announcing another pregnancy, but she said they are done

having kids before the clip cut to a chaotic shot of their children screaming and the parents struggling to wrangle the bunch for a group photo.

The couple married in July 2012 and welcomed their first child in August 2013. Baldwin was previously married to actor Kim Basinger, who had his eldest daughter, Ireland.

The announcement comes as Baldwin prepares for trial for his involuntary manslaughter charge in the fatal shooting on the set of the film “Rust” in 2021. The trial is scheduled for July in Santa Fe and Baldwin has pleaded not guilty. The charge carries a maximum sentence of 18 months in prison.

While filming the Western movie, which Baldwin produced and starred in, a revolver he was holding fired, killing cinematographer Halyna



AP  
Actor Alec Baldwin, center, poses with his wife, Hilaria Baldwin, and six of their children at the world premiere of “The Boss Baby: Family Business” in New York on June 22, 2021.

Hutchins and injuring director Joel Souza. Baldwin has said that he did not pull the trigger.

In April, the film’s weapons supervisor Hannah Gutierrez-Reed received the maximum

sentence of 18 months in a New Mexico state penitentiary after being convicted of involuntary manslaughter after a jury determined she failed to follow gun safety protocols.

## Former prosecutor settles lawsuit vs. Netflix over Central Park Five series

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Former Manhattan prosecutor Linda Fairstein and Netflix announced Tuesday they’ve settled the defamation lawsuit she filed four years ago over her portrayal in the streaming service’s miniseries about the five Black and Latino teenagers known as the now-exonerated Central Park Five.

Fairstein had argued that the 2019 four-part series “When They See Us” defamed her by portraying her as a “racist, unethical villain” and attributed actions, responsibilities and viewpoints that were not hers.

The case was expected to go to trial later this month. Fairstein said in a statement that “the decision to conclude this fight was not an easy one,” expressing confidence she would have presented a “compelling case to the jury.” While Fairstein will not receive any money as part of the settlement, Netflix has agreed to donate \$1 million to the Innocence Project, a nonprofit that works to exonerate people who’ve been wrongly convicted.

Viewers of the series will also now see a disclaimer that states, “While the motion



AP  
In this May 20, 2019 file photo, Director Ava DuVernay, center, with the Central Park Five: Raymond Santana, from left, Kevin Richardson, Korey Wise, Anthony McCray and Yusef Salaam, attend the world premiere of “When They See Us,” at the Apollo Theater in New York.

picture is inspired by actual events and persons, certain characters, incidents, locations, dialogue, and names are fictionalized for the purposes of dramatization.”

“This is what this case was all about—not about ‘winning’ or about any financial restitution, but about my reputation and that of my colleagues,” she said in a statement. “It was about setting the historical record straight that the villainous caricature invented by the defendants and portrayed on screen was not me.”

Fairstein was the top Manhattan sex crimes prosecutor in 1989 when the five teenagers were charged with a vicious attack on a jogger in Central Park. The convictions were overturned in 2002 after convicted murderer and serial rapist Matias Reyes confessed to committing the crime alone. DNA linked him to it.

Fairstein, who became a best-selling crime author after retiring from the Manhattan district attorney’s office, observed the boys’ interrogation but didn’t personally try the

## Diddy sells off his stake in Revolt, the media company he founded in 2013

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Sean “Diddy” Combs has sold off his stake in Revolt, the media company the rapper and entrepreneur founded over a decade ago.

Shares in Revolt held by Combs, who served as the company’s chair, have been fully redeemed and retired, the Los Angeles-based company said Tuesday a statement on its website.

Revolt didn’t disclose how much Combs was paid for his stake in the hip-hop news

and entertainment company, which he founded in 2013.

In the statement, CEO Detavio Samuels noted that when he joined the company in 2020 he realized “our mission is bigger than any individual.”

Revolt also announced a new ownership structure that will give its employees an equity stake in the company, which streams shows online, such as “Black Girl Stuff,” and “The Life of Draco,” featuring rapper Big Draco.

The move comes as Combs’ reputation has been sullied following several lawsuits filed late last year that raised allegations of sexual assault and rape on the part of one of hip-hop’s most recognizable performers and producers.

In November, he was sued by R&B singer Cassie, who said he subjected her to a yearslong abusive relationship that included beatings and rape. Combs settled the lawsuit with Cassie, whose full name is Casandra Ventura, a few days after it was filed.



Combs

## One-sided relationship seems a-ok to boyfriend

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend and I have been together for eight years. We live separately, and I live with my son. The problem is my boyfriend says he loves me but doesn’t seem to like spending time with me. He would rather mow my lawn than spend that same amount of time just hanging out with me.

We used to see each other several times a week, always a few times on the weekend and sometimes a weeknight as well. But the time he wants to share has been dwindling more and more. Right now, his work schedule gives him four days off in a row.

What hurts my feelings is that he tells me about all the projects he wants to do without me. He even tells me about trying to find things to do with his time. I have told him I miss him, and I’d like to do things with him, but most of the time he declines. If I try to explain how I feel about this, he exaggerates and says that if I had my way, I’d have all of his free time.

Before COVID, we would get together one night a week for beers and a sleepover. Now he will come over for an hour or two for drinks, maybe twice a week in the evening, but not for a long visit. Not much else. I have asked him repeatedly to go for a walk with me.

I feel lonely and undesired. I think I should end the relationship, but I am afraid I will never find someone else and that what little I have is better than being completely alone. I don’t know how to have a real conversation with him without him

getting angry with me. Please help me figure this out.

LONELY IN WASHINGTON

**DEAR LONELY:** Has it occurred to you that being so dependent on him may be what has caused him to distance from you? My first suggestion is to find a friend to walk with you. You say your “dates” consisted of him coming over, drinking and going to bed with you. Forgive me for seeming unromantic, but that sounds less like a date than a booty call.

Stop begging him to see you. You feel unappreciated because you are. Let things ride for now but quit telling him how needy you are. Get online and start meeting people. Other, more rewarding, relationships are possible — but not if you stay stuck in the rut you’re in. The two of you want different things from this relationship.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I’m divorced. My ex-husband has a girlfriend and has just gotten engaged. We have two sons, 23 and 20, and they are going to their father’s wedding in four months. I’m kind of annoyed that they are going, and I’m not sure what an impact this will have on my life as the “ex” or how my boys will feel. Advice?

NEW ERA IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR NEW ERA:** If it isn’t too late, refrain from con-

## DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



veying to your sons your annoyance that they will attend their father’s wedding. They belong there. Give them the chance to get to know the woman without trying to influence them either way.

Remember, above all, that you are a person in your own right, rather than just an “ex.” You are also still your sons’ mom. You have the opportunity for a happy, successful future if you don’t allow bitterness to get in the way. I hope you will give yourself that gift.

■ ■ ■

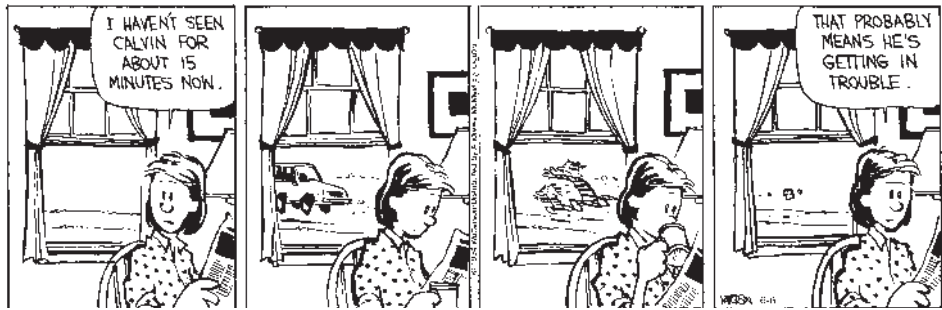
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Pastimes

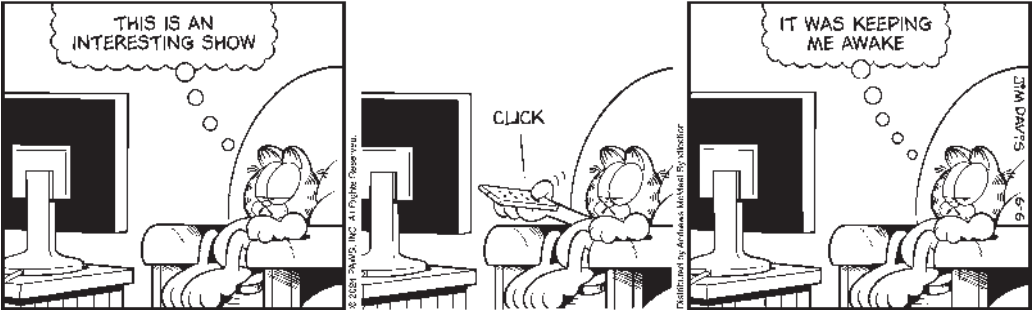
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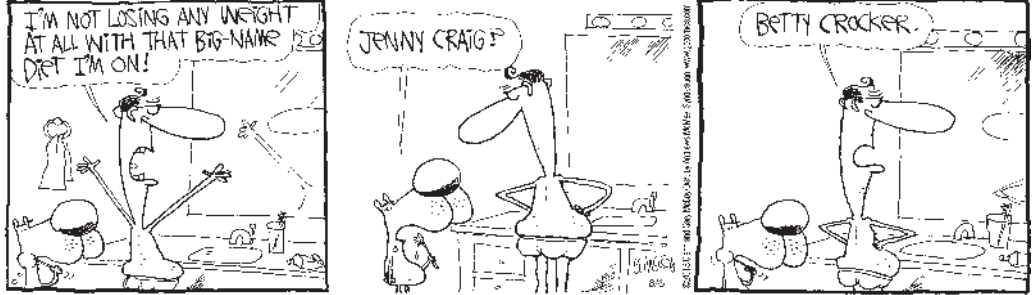
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By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Draped garment 5 Pyramid, maybe 9 Plant seeds 12 During 13 Met melody 14 Three, in Rome 15 2008 hit song by Taylor Swift 17 British ref. work 18 Goodies 19 British nobles 21 "— Cid" (Masse-net opera) 22 Hoops star Stephen 24 Trenches 27 Hearing thing 28 Bar bills 31 Equi- 32 Ton fractions (Abbr.) 33 French monarch 34 Mimic 36 Ms. Farrow

37 Native of Inverness 38 Affix with needle and 40 Kung — 41 Rwandan people 43 Part of TLC 47 Judge Lance 48 Narrative 51 One for the road? 52 Anti-fur org. 53 Tiny bit 54 Bashful 55 Desist 56 Walked (on)

2 "The Lincoln Highway" author Towles 3 Split apart 4 Paragons 5 Body pics 6 Granada gold 7 Old space station 8 Aspirin maker 9 Rise and fall of a narrative 10 Pitcher Hershisier 11 Ties the knot 16 Fr. holy woman 20 Louvre treasures

22 Rustic home 23 Celestial bear 24 Docu-mentarian Burns 25 Mil. morale booster 26 News-cast opener 27 Ticklish Muppet 29 Scary cry 30 Perch 35 Thumbs-up 37 Like an atrium 39 Traces of smoke 40 Tina of "30 Rock" 41 Twitches 42 Hexagonal state 43 Golf hazard 44 Couturier Christian 45 Within (Pref.) 46 Peruse 49 Hanol holiday 50 Okla-homa tribe

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Aubrey Anderson-Emmons, 17; Natalie Morales, 52; Paul Giamatti, 57; Robert Englund, 77.

Happy Birthday: Let your inquisitive mind lead the way this year, and you'll be privy to information that will help you navigate your way to personal growth and mental and physical improvements that result in a healthier lifestyle and better relationships. A change of pace and direction will bring about less drama and better reactions from the people you cherish. Speak up, make a difference and make romance a priority. Your numbers are 6, 14, 24, 28, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Position yourself for success. Don't let anyone infiltrate your space or exploit your kindness or generosity. Apply energy to what matters most and refuse to let anyone make you feel guilty for your decisions. Focus on love, happiness and your freedom to do as you please. \*\*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider your next move and how and who you want to help. Instead of trying to control what others do, change how you respond, and the outcome will satisfy your soul and give you the push you need to do what's best for you. \*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take an aggressive approach to getting and doing what you want. Set standards and boundaries that allow you to dictate how your life unfolds. Trust yourself to come up with ideas that have merit derived from common sense and experience. \*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Revisit your goals and aspirations and consider incorporating the skills you enjoy using most into

your moneymaking plans and prospects. Financial gain is possible if you update your skills, knowledge and resume. Think big and invest in your future. \*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Connect with people with as much to offer as you. Use your bartering skills to reach agreements that ensure everyone's a winner. Use your negotiating skills, and you will become the go-to person in your group. Live, love, laugh and enjoy what life has to offer. \*\*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Consider your routine and how it affects you mentally, emotionally and physically. Weigh the pros and cons and the daily wear and tear it has on you. Attend a seminar or conference that offers alternatives that, with a bit of guidance and upgrading, can lead to self-improvement. \*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Go on an adventure. Whether you dream about what you want to do or follow your heart and make things happen, it will become a learning experience that changes how you think and what's possible. Invest in yourself and your future. \*\*\*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Try something new and exciting that takes you on a memorable journey. Explore the possibilities and consider how you can expand your mind and find a niche that is ideally suited to you and the life you want to live. Invest in yourself. \*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do something that gets your juices flowing, your heart beating and your mind racing. Let the excitement build and your ideas flourish. Refuse to give in to the dull lifestyle that keeps you from exploring your potential. \*\*\*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get down to business and deal with money, prospects and career issues. Be observant and learn something about yourself and what you can do to get ahead. Don't let negativity set in when you need to change what's no longer working for you. \*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take precautions and refuse to let emotional situations stand between you and what you want. Use your insight, intelligence and originality to find your niche, and you'll discover how to improve your profile. Take pride in what you do, and share your accomplishments with someone you love. \*\*\*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let what others say and do sink in before you make a move or agree to something that isn't in your best interest. Design a strategy you can live and work with to reach your goal. Work alone and protect against theft and interference. \*\* Birthday Baby: You are masterful, heartfelt and demonstrative. You are engaging and uplifting.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

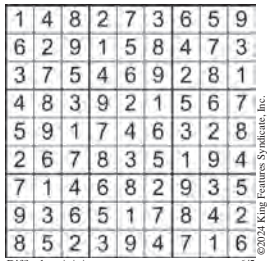
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★ 6/6 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CRUISE DIRECTORS Solution: 3 letters



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# Jones works 6 shutout innings, Suwinski homers as Pirates edge Dodgers

**PITTSBURGH (AP)**—Rookie

Jared Jones pitched six shutout innings and Jack Suwinski homered after being called up from the minor leagues as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 1-0 on Tuesday night.

Jones (4-5) allowed three hits to the NL West-leading Dodgers while striking out six and walking three. That strong performance came after the 22-year-old right-hander was touched for seven runs in 4 1/3 innings in his last start, on Wednesday at Detroit.

Dodgers star Shohei Ohtani went 1 for 4, striking out twice and grounding into a double play. Hours before the game, Ohtani's former interpreter, Ippei Mizuhara, pleaded guilty to bank and tax fraud in a Santa Ana, California, courtroom and admitted to stealing nearly \$17 million from Ohtani to pay off sports betting debts.

Jones came out firing. His first three pitches were clocked at 100.4 mph, 100.3 mph and 100.1 mph. The first pitch was high and tight to Mookie Betts and sent the star shortstop spinning out of the batter's box.

Suwinski hit a one-out home run to right field in the third inning for the only run against Tyler Glasnow (6-4), winless in his last five starts.

Glasnow gave up three hits and two walks and had nine strikeouts. It marked Glasnow's first appearance in Pittsburgh since the Pirates traded him to Tampa Bay in 2018.

## GUARDIANS 8, ROYALS 5

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—Kansas City shortstop Bobby Witt's Jr.'s throwing error led to Cleveland scoring three runs on an infield grounder in the seventh inning in the Guardians' win over the Royals.

The Guardians trailed 5-0 in the fourth before storming back to win the series opener and push their division lead to five over the Royals.

Witt clobbered a pair of two-run homers, but his errant throw in the seventh was more than costly.

After Tyler Freeman's homer tied it 5-5 for the Guardians and chased starter Seth Lugo, Cleveland loaded the bases on a fielder's choice and two walks — one by Sam Long (0-1) with two outs when David Fry hit a grounder toward the middle.

Witt gloved it to the right of the base and initially tried to beat Josh Naylor to second for a force. When Witt realized he couldn't get Naylor, he unleashed a wild throw that first baseman Vinnie Pasquantino had no chance of getting.

## METS 6, NATIONALS 3

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Pete Alonso hit a 446-foot homer, Harrison Bader launched a two-run shot and the New York Mets beat Washington.

David Peterson worked efficiently into the seventh inning in his second start this season for the Mets, who have won four of six since a 7-19 stumble.

Alonso went deep in the ninth inning off Nationals closer Kyle Finnegan, who came in with Washington trailing 5-2. In 81 career



Pittsburgh Pirates relief pitcher David Bednar (51) celebrates with catcher Henry Davis after the team's win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

games against the Nationals, Alonso has 26 homers, 14 at Nationals Park — the most by any opposing player over the past five years.

## RAYS 9, MARLINS 5

**MIAMI (AP)**—Brandon Lowe had a three-run homer, a double and drove in five runs to the lead Tampa Bay to a win over Miami.

Tampa Bay outfielder Randy Arozarena reached base five times — two walks, hit by pitches twice and a single. In the sixth inning, Arozarena was hit on the bill of the helmet by a 93 mph fastball from Marlins reliever Huascar Brazoban. Arozarena went to first base and after being examined by Rays training staff, stayed in the game.

Ahmed Rosario had three hits, Isaac Paredes had two hits and two RBIs, and Yandy Díaz added a double and single for the Rays, who have won 22 of 25 against the Marlins since the start of 2019.

Tampa Bay starter Ryan Pepiot allowed three runs in the first inning, and then held Miami scoreless the remainder of his outing. Pepiot (4-2) gave up five hits and struck out eight in six innings.

The Rays hit around and broke it open with a five-run outburst in the fifth. Paredes' two-run single made it 6-3, and Brandon Lowe followed with a two-run double that ended Marlins starter Jesús Luzardo's outing. Rosario's RBI single off reliever Declan Cronin punctuated the outburst.

## BRAVES 8, RED SOX 3

**BOSTON (AP)**—Max Fried struck out a career-high 13 batters in seven strong innings, Ozzie Albies hit a tiebreaking three-run homer and Atlanta beat Boston.

Orlando Arcia added a solo shot in the seventh for the Braves, who improved to 3-0 this season against Boston.

Fried (6-2) allowed three runs, two earned, on four hits while working seven innings or more for sixth time

in his past eight starts.

## YANKEES 5, TWINS 1

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Luis Gil pitched six shutout innings of one-hit ball to win his seventh consecutive start, Giancarlo Stanton launched a two-run homer and the New York Yankees beat Minnesota for their sixth straight victory.

Aaron Judge flared a two-run double and Gleyber Torres homered early on a 349-foot drive that glanced off the glove of a leaping Max Kepler at the right-field fence.

Returning home from a 7-2 trip to three California cities, the AL East-leading Yankees won for the 17th time in 21 games overall and improved to 105-42 against the Twins since 2002—the best record for any team against an opponent in its own league during that span.

## ORIOLES 10, BLUE JAYS 1

**TORONTO (AP)**—Ryan Mountcastle homered twice and drove in five runs, Corbin Burnes allowed one run in seven innings for his third straight win and the Baltimore Orioles routed the Toronto Blue Jays 10-1 on Tuesday night.

Orioles rookie infielder Connor Norby homered for his first major league hit, a two-run blast off Nate Pearson in the eighth inning.

Gunnar Henderson and Adley Rutschman reached base three times each and Rutschman drove in a pair for the Orioles, who won for their 10th win in 12 games.

Burnes (6-2) gave up four hits and matched his longest outing of the season. He walked one and struck out five.

## PHILLIES 2, BREWERS 1, 10 INNINGS

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—Nick Castellanos won the game with an RBI double in the 10th inning after Alec Bohm tied the score with a solo homer in the eighth to lead Philadelphia past Milwaukee.

After Bryson Stott was intention-

ally walked, Castellanos lined a double to right off Brewers reliever Joel Payamps (1-2) that scored automatic runner Whit Merrifield. The Phillies mobbed Castellanos at second base as another packed crowd went wild in celebration of the team's 43rd win, tops in the National League.

Seranthony Domínguez (2-2) tossed a scoreless 10th for the win.

## TIGERS 3, RANGERS 1

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)**—Jack Flaherty pitched five shutout innings, running his scoreless innings streak to 11 2/3 innings, Zach McKinstry and Riley Greene homered and Detroit beat Texas.

Flaherty (3-4) allowed two hits and no walks through five innings, throwing a season-low 60 pitches, including 44 strikes. In his previous start, the 28-year-old right-hander beat Boston 5-0 by throwing one-hit ball for 6 2/3 innings.

## ASTROS 8, CARDINALS 5

**HOUSTON (AP)**—Yainer Diaz homered in a second straight game to lead Houston to a win over St. Louis.

Playing without star right fielder Kyle Tucker, the Astros got a three-run homer from Diaz in the third inning as they took the first two games of a three-game set with the Cardinals. Diaz hit a go-ahead two-run homer in Monday's 7-4 win.

Houston scored six runs off Cardinals starter Andre Pallante (1-2). He allowed six hits and walked three in three innings.

## CUBS 7, WHITE SOX 6

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Ian Happ's second double of the night drove in two runs to put the Chicago Cubs ahead in the eighth inning, and the North Siders came back twice to beat the crosstown White Sox at Wrigley Field.

Happ's third hit of the game, lined to the right-field corner off Jordan Leasure, drove in Cody Bellinger and Christopher Morel to erase a one-run White Sox lead and

deal them a 12th straight loss.

Luis Robert Jr. launched a 438-foot solo shot to the left-center bleachers in his return to the lineup to break a tie in the seventh and put the White Sox ahead 6-5. The All-Star center fielder added a single in his first game in nearly two months after being sidelined by a right hip flexor strain.

## REDS 4, ROCKIES 1

**DENVER (AP)**—Frankie Montas took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, Elly De La Cruz hit a 448-foot homer and Cincinnati beat the Colorado.

Elias Diaz broke up Montas' no-hit bid with a double to center field to open the seventh, but Montas (3-4) retired the next three batters to conclude his outing and win for the first time since April 3.

Montas became the first visiting pitcher in the history of hitter-friendly Coors Field to throw at least seven innings with nine or more strikeouts while allowing no more than one hit, according to OptaSTATS.

## ANGELS 4, PADRES 2

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)**—Zach Neto had a tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh inning, and the Los Angeles Angels won their first home series of the season with a victory over San Diego.

Luis Rengifo drove in an early run for the Angels, who will win a series for the first time in 10 tries after back-to-back victories over the Padres. Los Angeles improved the majors' worst home record to 9-21 after holding San Diego to three runs in 18 innings.

## SEATTLE 4, ATHLETICS 3

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)**—George Kirby had nine strikeouts in five innings for his first win in nearly a month, and Seattle beat Oakland.

Josh Rojas had three hits, Luke Raley added two hits and an RBI, and Ty France drove in a pair of runs to keep the AL West-leading Mariners rolling on manager Scott Servais' 57th birthday.

Coming off a 6-1 homestand, Seattle has won four straight and eight of nine.

Abraham Toro had an RBI single and JJ Bleday singled twice for Oakland. The A's have lost five of six.

## DIAMONDBACKS 8, GIANTS 5

**PHOENIX (AP)**—Kevin Newman and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. each hit two-run doubles and Arizona stretched their winning streak to four games with a victory over slumping San Francisco.

Newman hit a two-run double off Kyle Harrison (4-3) in the third inning and Gurriel hit his in Arizona's four-run seventh. Gabriel Moreno also finished with two RBIs and Blaze Alexander had three of Arizona's 13 hits with an RBI.

Kevin Ginkel (4-1) allowed two hits in 1 1/3 innings in his first game since taking a comebacker off the left knee against the New York Mets on Saturday. The right-hander gave up Patrick Bailey's bloop, run-scoring single in the fifth inning, but it was charged to starter Blake Walston.



# Celtics followed 'craziness' of Mazzulla's coaching style straight to NBA Finals



**BOSTON**

(AP)—When Celtics guard Derrick White stood in the corner behind the 3-point line late in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals as teammate Jaylen Brown drove into the lane, drew defenders and flipped a pass toward him, White felt prepared for the moment.

That's because Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla had simulated scenarios just like it throughout the season.

"It starts in practice with them championship stations that Joe loves to do," White recalled. "It starts there and then just continue to trust one another."

White trusted that Brown would make the correct basketball play. He did, and it ended with White connecting on a tie-breaking 3 that ultimately secured Boston's place in the NBA Finals and a matchup with the Dallas Mavericks.

The play may also be a perfect example of how in his second year as coach, Mazzulla has managed to help the Celtics recover from the disappointment of a season that ended on the cusp of the Finals a year ago, to a run this season that again has them four wins away from capturing the franchise's 18th championship.

White's shot, Mazzulla said, is a microcosm of the kind of a team culture he's tried to cul-



Boston Celtics head coach Joe Mazzulla watches from the bench during the second half of Game 2 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Boston Celtics, Thursday, May 23, 2024, in Boston.

tivate over the past two years. One that puts details first.

"Things that you can't take for granted," said Mazzulla, who at age 35, is the youngest head coach to reach the NBA Finals since Bill Russell (also 35) did it in 1969. "Sometimes it's as small as getting the ball inbounds. But just try to pick little things, that we see on a nightly basis that can impact winning and can affect losing. And, we just practice them over, over and over again until they become second nature."

What's equally become central to the Celtics' success this season is the buy-in to an egoless, team-first philosophy in which individual credit is secondary on a roster loaded with current and past All-Stars like Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and Jrue Holiday, along with White, 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis, and a deep bench.

Meanwhile, Mazzulla has also benefited from working alongside a coaching staff he was able to choose this offseason. That's something

he didn't have last season after being thrust into a job he didn't expect to have following predecessor Ime Udoka's suspension just days before the start of training camp.

Lead assistant Charles Lee and Sam Cassell have helped Mazzulla tweak a system build around 3-point shooting and defense, which saw the Celtics rank first and third, respectively, in offensive and defensive rating during the regular season.

Those rankings have re-

mained the same this postseason for a team that is 6-0 on the road and 3-0 in close-out games.

But as much as Mazzulla and his staff have been driven home their philosophies via X's and O's, they've also continued to focus on the mental aspects of the game.

Last season it was in film sessions that began with Mazzulla showing the team images of sand castles, which he used as a metaphor that even the best castles get washed away by the daily tide—requiring them to be rebuilt.

It was something Tatum said was "a little cheesy" but "something we bought into."

Mazzulla's tactics were on display again during a blowout win back in March over Phoenix. He went viral after he sprinted to contest Phoenix's Royce O'Neale's practice basket heading into a timeout.

"I saw a guy going in to get a shot and he hadn't made one and I didn't want him to feel good about himself going to the bench," Mazzulla explained at the time. "That's the bench rule. ... If I'm going to ask the guys to contest, staff's going to do the same thing."

Mazzulla said later during an appearance on Boston radio's 98.8 that instances like that are the foundation of their team culture.

"We can laugh about it. But at the end of the day I think

you have small moments in your organization to set the temperature of what you want to be about," Mazzulla said. "We did that last year and thinking back that's an important thing that mindset that we try to bring. That we're going to bring it every day. That we want our opponents to constantly be uncomfortable. We don't want to give them an edge at any point."

Holiday acknowledged that Mazzulla's style is unique, but one that he's come to appreciate during his first season in Boston.

"You go with it. You go with the craziness," Holiday said. "I think maybe it's controlled madness. I think it's definitely his way of preparing us and I feel like preparing himself. And I feel like it's been working. It's fun. It's different. ... Joe definitely brings a spark and some weird energy."

From Mazzulla's perspective, it's about forming the kind of bonds that may ultimately bring Boston another championship.

"I think, one of the best gifts, things that I have is, why I got into coaching is building relationships with guys," he said. "When I left college to go to the NBA, most people were, like, hesitant about that because NBA guys get a negative rap as to being able to build relationships with them. But I felt like it was, 'There's a lot there.'"

## Reflective side of Irving front and center in run to NBA Finals with Mavs

**DALLAS** (AP)—Kyrie Irving directed obscene gestures and profanity at a hostile crowd in Boston the last time the star Dallas guard saw the Celtics, one of his former teams, in the playoffs two years ago.

It was one tumultuous moment of many in a tension-filled tenure with Brooklyn that ended with his trade to the Mavericks about 10 months later.

Healthier and happier, as he likes to say, Irving is back on the biggest stage in his sport with the Mavs set to face the Boston Celtics in the NBA Finals starting Thursday night.

Throughout the deepest playoff run for Dallas in 13 years, the reflective side of Irving has surfaced frequently, stopping short of mea culpas but making clear he's learned a lot along the way.

"I will say last time in Boston, I don't think that was the best—not this regular season, but when we played in the playoffs and everyone saw me flip off the birds and kind of lose my (stuff) a little bit—that wasn't a great re-

flection of who I am and how I like to compete on a high level," Irving said.

"It wasn't a great reflection on my end towards the next generation on what it means to control your emotions in that type of environment, no matter what people are yelling at you."

Before jilting Boston fans by signing with the Nets and joining Kevin Durant in free agency in 2019, Irving was already a polarizing player.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic and Irving's refusal to get vaccinated, which meant he couldn't play home games for Brooklyn because of New York City's vaccine mandate for employees.

Next was Irving's social media post of a link to a movie containing antisemitic material, which led to a suspension from the Nets and the end of his longtime business relationship with Nike.

Ultimately, Irving asked out of Brooklyn, and he and Durant were traded days apart last year, giving Irving a new co-star in Mavs point guard Luka Doncic.

The former No. 1 overall pick out of Duke had never been anywhere near Texas in his career but was greeted by two familiar faces. Mavs general manager Nico Harrison used to work for Nike, and coach Jason Kidd was the point guard of the then-New Jersey Nets when Irving was growing up in that area.

Irving caught up with the team in Los Angeles after the trade, and the Mavericks won their first two games with him.

"You could see the smile," Kidd said. "You could see the relief, or you could see that he was ready to have fun and play the game that he loves."

The partial season together didn't work out for Irving and Doncic. Dallas missed the playoffs. The first full season together was what the Mavs expected when they pulled off Harrison's first blockbuster trade.

A late-season surge lifted the Mavs to fifth in the West, although they've been the lower seed throughout these playoffs.

Dallas beat the Los Angeles Clippers in six games in the

first round, ousting Tyronn Lue, Irving's coach from his championship season alongside LeBron James in Cleveland in 2016.

"He's very, very patient," Lue said after that series of the difference between the Irving he coached and today's version. "You couldn't get this Kyrie when I had him. He wants to kill you every moment, every second. But now you can see, he's just letting the game come to him."

The Mavs beat top-seeded Oklahoma City in six games before knocking out No. 3 Minnesota in five games in the Western Conference finals, the clincher giving Dallas a five-game road winning streak in the playoffs.

"I feel like it's a great chapter that's being written right now," Irving said. "I'm enjoying every step of the way. I'm not taking anything for granted. I'm enjoying the hot weather right now. I'm enjoying the Dallas community. We talked about this early in the season, just how much I felt embraced."

Irving went on to say it went

deeper than that, reminding reporters of an entire career spent in the other conference.

"Seasonal depression is real when you're growing up in the north," Irving said. "I spent 12 years in the Eastern Conference in three cold cities that deal with four seasons. So you come out here and you're able to get outside and ground yourself a little bit more and spend some time with your family. Watch your kids run outside."

Irving and Doncic have at least another season together. Irving has a player option for 2025-26, Doncic for the season after that.

Kidd believes a preseason trip to Madrid, where Doncic grew as a teenaged pro in the EuroLeague, helped the two superstars bond.

Now, winning is cementing that bond, one of the most poignant moments for the pair coming in the final seconds of Game 3 against the Timberwolves, after the Mavs knew they had clinched a 3-0 lead.

"When we were winning by nine on that last possession, I told (Irving), 'I'm tired,' and

he told me, 'That's the way it's supposed to be,'" Doncic said. "He brought the calmness to the team and to me. He brought the maturity. I'm learning from him every day."

There might not have been many teammates lining up to say those things in Irving's first three stops, and the magnitude looms larger with the words coming from the face of the Dallas franchise.


Even though his relationships with Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and some of his other former Boston teammates are fine, Irving believes he is a better teammate now than he was then.

"The greatest thing I learned from Boston was just being able to manage not only my emotions, but just what's going on on a day-to-day basis of being a leader of a team or being one of the leaders and having young guys around you that have their own goals," Irving said. "You have to learn how to put the big picture first."

A more introspective Irving is on the big stage again, and knows what's coming from the crowd in Boston.



# Djokovic withdraws with knee injury and will lose the No. 1 ranking



**PARIS (AP)—**Novak Djokovic pulled out of the the French Open with an injured knee on Tuesday, an abrupt end to his title defense and to his current stay at No. 1 in the rankings.

“I am really sad to announce that I have to withdraw from #rolandgarros,” Djokovic posted on social media. “I played with my heart and gave my all in yesterday’s match and unfortunately, due to a medial meniscus tear in my right knee, my team and I had to make a tough decision after careful consideration and consultation.”

The tournament said the extent of the injury was found during an MRI



Serbia’s Novak Djokovic slipped and fell during the fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Argentina’s Francisco Cerundolo at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, June 3, 2024.

exam Tuesday. Djokovic was hurt during a fourth-round victory against No. 23 Francisco Cerundolo on Monday that lasted five sets spread across more than 4 1/2 hours. It was his second consecutive five-setter, with his total time on court across the two exceeding 9 hours.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion was supposed to face No. 7 seed Casper Ruud, the runner-up each of the past two years at Roland Garros, in the quarterfinals on Wednesday. Instead, Ruud gets a walkover into the semifinals, where he will face No. 4 Alexander Zverev or No. 11 Alex de Minaur.

With Djokovic, the owner of three French Open titles, gone from the bracket, and Rafael Nadal—owner

of a record 14—eliminated in the first round, someone will be holding the French Open men’s trophy for the first time on Sunday.

The group of remaining contenders includes No. 2 seed Jannik Sinner, a 22-year-old Italian who defeated No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (3) on Tuesday to get to the semifinals and now is assured of replacing Djokovic atop the ATP rankings next week.

Sinner won the Australian Open in January and becomes the first man from his country to reach No. 1.

## TANIA

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record time of 5:01.54 set by Noriko Jim in the 2006 Micronesian Games.

Tan finished in the middle of the pack of 10 runners from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and Guam. New Zealand swept the Top 3 with first place Laura Nagel at 4:22.10, followed by Rebekah Greene at 4:24.40, and Boh Ritchie at 4:25.69.

The 23-year-old also competed in the senior women 5,000m finals yesterday and finished sixth with a

time of 18:39.79. This time, Australia swept the competition as Jenny Blundell took home first place with a time of 15:26.29. Second was Holly Campbell at 15:31.88, and third went to Maudie Skyring at 15:49.39.

With Tan in Fiji are NMI’s track stars Zarinae Sapong, Casey Cruz, and Theodore Rodgers.

All four had their time on the track last Tuesday, with Sapong clocking in at 13.09 seconds in the women’s 100m sprint senior prelims—seconds shy of her PB at 12.98 seconds. She just missed the mark to advance to the semis by one ranking after she

finished at 17th place overall.

Cruz, for her part, clocked in at 13.42 seconds in the women’s 100m sprint senior prelims. She came short of breaking her PR of 13.07 seconds that she set in the 2023 Pacific Games.

For Rodgers, he finished with a time of 11.80 seconds in the men’s 100m sprint senior prelims. He came short of his PR of 11.52 seconds.

NMI athletics team official Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said of Tan setting a new PB, “It’s amazing [that] she [broke] PR in the 1,500m and it was her first time competing for the event

at the Oceania Championship stage. NMA is very pleased with all our athletes here and their performances.”

He said of the team’s performance so far as a whole, “They are doing well in their events—coming out healthy and still ready for Micro Games. Cannot be more proud and happy for them to be competing here at the OAC. We’re very thankful there is a physical therapist readily available for them to be healed up after training and events.”

Today, team captain/coach Sapong, and Rodgers and Cruz will have a go at the 200m senior prelims.

## RUN

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Takeru Jim was the fastest in the 18U men’s division with a time of 46:11; Samuel Zhu was right behind at 47:50; and third went to Yong Jun Lin at 49:11. In the U18 women’s division, Lovel Spaeth was first at 1:17:20, while Janika Fernandez was second at 1:48:06.

Jordan Ruiz was first in the men’s open division with a time of 47:17. Philip Santos was second at 55:32, and Dominique Keiffer was third at 59:37.

In the women’s open division, Jove Taman was the fastest at 1:17:31, while Angelina Philips placed second with 1:30:13. Tanya Timbas was third at 1:41:06.

For the 35-39 women’s age group, Kerri Bauer led with her time of 1:02:33. Samantha Pua was second place with 1:29:57, and third was Lucinda Johnson with 1:30:13.

In the 40-44 men’s age group, Travis Spaeth was first with his time of

59:50, while Toby Watson was second with 1:20:54. In the female division, Sheila Isla claimed first place with a time of 1:05:26, followed by Ali Nelson at 1:07:45, and Robyn Spaeth at third with 1:09:24.

In the 45-49 men’s age group, Paul Manglona was the fleetest afoot at 59:52. Jess Gariguez was a far second place at 1:18:35, and Steve McKagan was third with 1:19:37. In the women’s division, Rosemarie Chisato was first with her time of 1:00:52. Qiuxiang Chen was second place with 1:23:53, and Lorraine Ada was third at 1:37:45.

Chong Jun Gao finished first in the 50-54 men’s age group with a time of 51:21. James Abuy came in second at 54:22, while third place was Raymund Tolentino at 57:12. In the women’s division, Kimiko McKagan’s time of 1:07:46 landed her in first place. Mei Hua Jin was second with 1:10:15, and Rebecca Wiggins was third at 1:18:57.

In the 55-59 women’s age group, Jin Zi Wen was first place with her

time of 1:06:40. Guijie Sun Kilileman was second with 1:29:45, and Zhenyu Quan came in third with 1:17:34. Marie Sablan was the lone runner in the 60-64 women’s age group and came in at 1:21:54.

In the 65+ men’s age group, barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee was first with his time of 53:58. Paul Khang was second at 1:04:40, while another barefoot runner, Changhwan Jang came in third at 1:23:52. In the women’s division, Jennifer Retsinas was first at 1:11:56, and Juanita Fajardo finished second with 1:45:34.

Run Saipan race director Simon Necesito was the main organizer of the event as Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. is the team official for the NMI in the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji.

Necesito said of the race, “This event was definitely was a test of my role as a race director. Out of all the races I’ve done so far this was one of the hardest. What made it challenging was the fact that we had more runners

participating in this event compared to the previous years. But I see this as a good problem because more people in the community get to see that Run Saipan encourages all people of different ages and skills, whether or not you run or walk.”

He then thanked Dela Cruz for having the confidence in him and assisting him throughout the process. “I am for certain that if not for the experience that I’ve had running alongside him in the operation side of things I wouldn’t have been able to run this as smoothly as it did. I also want to thank OneTime for being able to assist us in ensuring that our races went smoothly and that our runners get accurate times for their records,” said Necesito.

The sponsor of the race was AP Group LLC., which includes DreamPlay, Napu Brewing Co., Tapped Out, AP Energy, AP Solutions, NF-Xpress, along with IT&E and Run Saipan partners Northern Marianas Athletics and Saipan International School.

## OL’ACES

From page 16

It was a run frenzy for Ol’Aces from the start as Pirates pitching came undone in the first inning. Ol’Aces put up 10 runs in the first, but the Pirates replied in their at-bat to cut down their lead by half, 5-10.

However, Ol’Aces had more runs up their sleeves as the game was busted wide open in the second when they went into double digits again and scored 16 more runs for a 26-5 lead.

The Pirates’ C.J. Rivesa scored a

run in the second, but only one more run was made in their last at-bat while Ol’Aces continued to pummel Pirates’ pitching.

Ol’Aces would go on to tack 12 more runs in the last inning and win by a deficit of 31 runs by the time the mercy ruling kicked in.

Ol’Aces’ Top 5 batters Knox Sablan, Preston Santos, Liam Sablan, Tiwsor Taisakan, and Debron Saures all scored five runs each.

Last Sunday, Lil’ Blue Jays defeated the Pirates as well, 19-5.

The Pirates couldn’t seem to catch a break as they’ve lost all seven of their games after this game with the

Lil’ Blue Jays.

The Lil’ Blue Jays put up 10 runs by the second inning and held down the Pirates’ offense in both. But the Pirates’ bats came alive in the third as they scored three from V.J. Castro, Tyler Mizutani, and C.J. Rivera, for a 3-10 game.

The Lil’ Blue Jays then came flying in the last two innings as three would score in the third and six more would come in the fourth. At this point, only two more runs scored the Pirates, and the Lil’ Blue Jays came away with the victory as the Pirates failed to add any more runs.

The Lil’ Blue Jays’ pitching staff

of Castro, Rivera, and Jose Tenorio collected 10 strikeouts, allowed just eight hits, and five runs.

In other results last Saturday, the Braves roared past Lil’ Cubs, 12-0.

In the Junior Division last Sunday, the Phillies struck down the Blue Jays Jr., 18-8, while the Braves Jr. doused the Comets Jr., 27-2.

The Majors playoffs is set to start this Saturday, June 8, while the Juniors playoffs are set for Sunday, June 9.

The Majors semis and Juniors consolation game are scheduled for Saturday, June 15, with the championship games set for Sunday, June 16.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	43	19	.694	—
Baltimore	39	20	.661	2½
Boston	30	31	.492	12½
Tampa Bay	30	31	.492	12½
Toronto	28	32	.467	14
Central Division				
Cleveland	40	20	.667	—
Kansas City	36	26	.581	5
Minnesota	33	27	.550	7
Detroit	31	30	.508	9½
Chicago	15	46	.246	25½
West Division				
Seattle	35	27	.565	—
Texas	29	32	.475	5½
Houston	28	34	.452	7
Oakland	24	38	.387	11
Los Angeles	23	38	.377	11½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	43	19	.694	—
Atlanta	34	24	.586	7
Washington	27	33	.450	15
New York	26	35	.426	16½
Miami	21	40	.344	21½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	36	25	.590	—
Chicago	30	31	.492	6
St. Louis	28	31	.475	7
Pittsburgh	28	32	.467	7½
Cincinnati	28	33	.459	8
West Division				
Los Angeles	38	24	.613	—
San Diego	32	32	.500	7
Arizona	29	32	.475	8½
San Francisco	29	33	.468	9
Colorado	21	39	.350	16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NSA STANDINGS				
Majors				
Braves	7	0		
Ol’Aces	5	2		
Lil’ Blue Jays	4	3		
Comets	4	3		
Marlins	4	3		
Lil’ Cubs	3	4		
Cobras	1	6		
Pirates	0	7		
Juniors				
Phillies	5	0		
Braves Jr.	4	1		
Blue Jays Jr.	2	4		
Comets Jr.	0	6		





Jones works 6 shutout innings, Suwinski homers as Pirates edge Dodgers  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Djokovic withdraws with knee injury and will lose the No. 1 ranking  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Tania breaks 1,500m PR in Fiji

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

It seems as though Tania Tan gets faster after each run on the track.

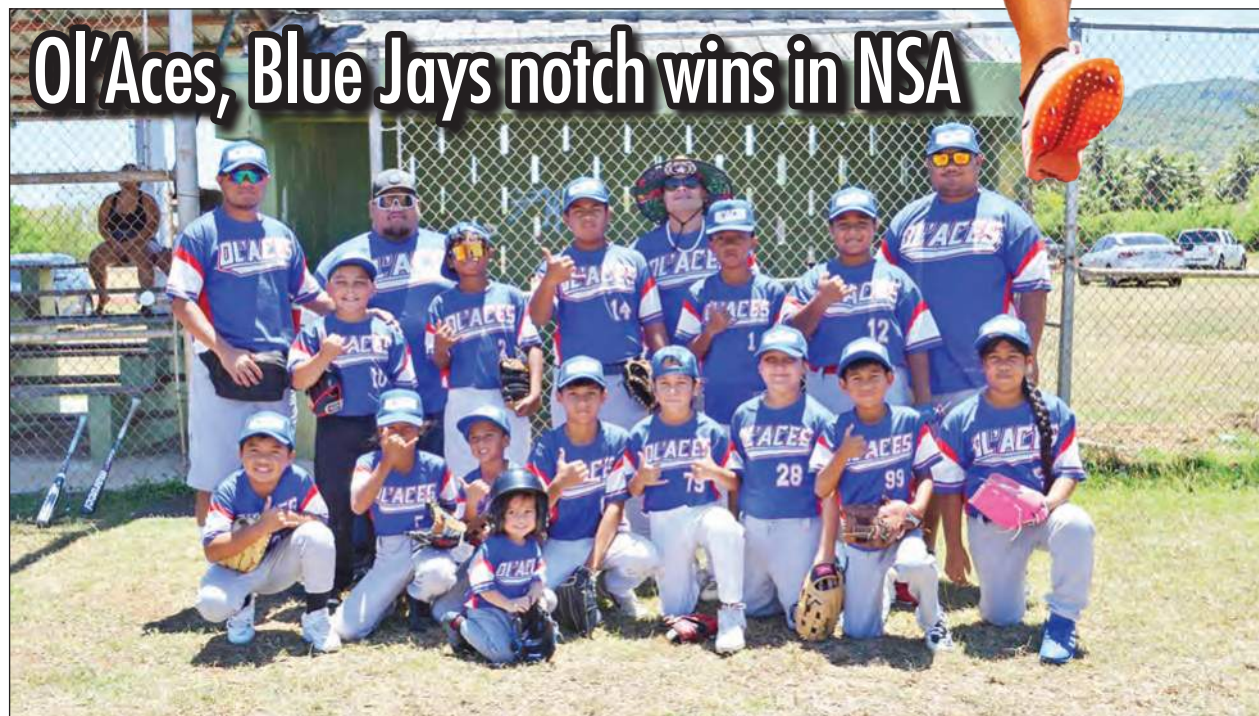
After she broke a couple of national NMI records last April, she came close yet again to breaking another record in the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championships in Suva, Fiji. But at 5:04.28 in the senior women's 1,500m finals last Tuesday, she instead reset her personal best of 5:07.30, and came even closer to the NMI

See TANIA on Page 15



OCEANIA ATHLETICS  
Tania Tan poses for the camera during her senior women's 1,500m finals last Tuesday in the 2024 Oceania Athletics Championship in Suva, Fiji.

## Ol'Aces, Blue Jays notch wins in NSA



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ol'Aces poses for group photo during one of their games in the 2024 Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



Ol'Aces and Lil' Blue Jays notched wins in their Major League division games of the 2024 Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Baseball Field.

Last Saturday, Ol'Aces sunk the Pirates, 38-7, in a run mercy-ruled game.

See OL'ACES on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lil' Blue Jays poses for group photo during one of their games in the 2024 Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Baseball Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

65+ men's age group winners, from second left, barefoot runner Chong Nam Lee, Paul Khang, and Changhwan Jang pose with Run Saipan's Dr. Ron Snyder, left, and Simon Necesito during the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Run Saipan Grotto 10K last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

## Run Saipan announces Grotto 10K run age division winners

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



Run Saipan hosted an awards ceremony for the 3rd Annual Grotto 10K last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Not only were Top 3 overall in the men's and women's division were awarded, but age groups of the U18, open, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, and 65+ were awarded as well.

See RUN on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the 45-49 men's age group, Paul Manglona was first place, second left, and Jess Gariguez was second place. They pose with Run Saipan's Dr. Ron Snyder, left, and Simon Necesito during the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Run Saipan Grotto 10K last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First place in the U18 men's division, Takeru Jim, second left, and second place Samuel Zhu, pose with Run Saipan's Dr. Ron Snyder, left, and Simon Necesito during the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Run Saipan Grotto 10K last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the 55-59 women's age group, Jin Zi Wen was first place, center, second was Guijie Sun Killleman, second right, and third was Zhenyu Quan, second left. They pose with Run Saipan's Dr. Ron Snyder, left, and Simon Necesito during the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Run Saipan Grotto 10K last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex.